Sunday, August 19, 2012 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 252 P20 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ DN BREAKING to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet | Philippine Inquirer Sunday Yahoo! GMA7/DZBB

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THE GOOD TIMES The best of possibilities was at hand when then Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo met then presidential candidate Sen. Benigno Aquino III upon his arrival at the Naga airport in March 2010 for a campaign stump in Daet. In this photo illustration, Robredo's photo is superimposed on a stretch of shore off Masbate where his plane reportedly crashed Saturday afternoon. (PHOTO COURTESY OF THE INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU AND INSET)

Robredo plane crashes

ZENEIDA "Nini" Quezon Avancena, daughter of former President Manuel L. Quezon (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

GMA doc's diagnosis not Makati Med's

MAKATI Medical Center corporate communications head Marc Paredes yesterday turned to the Inquirer that Dr. Roberto V. Anastacio's remarks on the health condition of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in a press conference on Friday "were not MMC's statement."

Paredes said that the press conference was held at the Dome Cafe behind the hospital and not at the MMC.

A short statement from the MMC Patient Relations Office further clarified that:

"The interviews and press statement, and its subsequent release, that took place yesterday (Friday) afternoon at Dome Cafe on Dela Rosa St., Makati City regarding Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's health condition came from Dr. Roberto V. Anastacio, reflective of his official function as her attending physician.

"This clarifies the confusion stemming from the media regarding the source of such information."

Jews honor Quezon on his 134th birthday today

By Nesa C. Benigno
Contributor

AS THE country commemorates the 134th birthday today, Aug. 19, of Manuel L. Quezon, he is also honored by thousands of Jewish families who have survived and prospered because they found a home in Manila at the darkest time in their history as a race.

It was a point of no return.

German and Austrian Jews—1,200 of them—narrowly escaped Adolf Hitler's gas chambers just before the German dictator rounded up 6 million Jews who were eventually tortured and murdered in his concentration camps.

"The rush was screaming bloody murder: 'Kill the Jews!'" recalls child refugee to Manila

(JEWS HONOR A-11)

AFP, PNP, Red Cross, US join search, rescue

By Jovan Cubilas Soltes, Inquirer Southern Luzon,
Philip C. Tubeza and TJ Burgonio

INTERIOR Secretary Jesse Robredo called his wife Maria Leonor "Leni" Gerona Robredo at about 4:30 p.m. yesterday to say that the plane flying him from Cebu to Camarines Sur was having engine problems.

Leni, a lawyer, made this confirmation, adding that the call was immediately cut off and there was no contact with Robredo after that.

Malacañang has confirmed that the four-seater Piper Seneca plane that Robredo was on board with three others had gone missing after it crashed in the waters off the shoreline of Masbate City at about 3 p.m. yesterday.

The private aircraft was heading for Naga City, Robredo's hometown, from Cebu when one of the pilots sent a distress

(ROBREDO A-11)

Why MMDA traffic aide took it on the chin

PAPA'S ANGELS When MMDA traffic aide Saturnino Fabros got clapped around by a motorist, his 6 daughters gave him as many hugs.

By Nina Calleja

ALL SATURNINO Fabros could think of when the Volvo-driving manager of a tobacco firm came down from his car and smacked him were his young, motherless daughters.

"What if he had a gun and had shot me? No one would have been left to take care of my daughters," the 47-year-old traffic aide for the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said in an interview.

Fabros lost his wife to pneumonia in 2010 and is the sole support of his six daughters, the youngest of whom is 7 years old and a first-grade pupil. The eldest college-age daughter had

(WHY MMDA A-11)

Good day to clean house, do laundry; sun's in the heart

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and DJ Yap

THIS would be the best time to clean the house and do the laundry after almost two weeks of floods and monsoon rains as the long weekend promises "generally sunny, fair weather."

(GOOD A-11)

Project Noah cool, laugh at clouds, sing in the rain

By DJ Yap

FOR MANY Filipinos, rainy seasons and goes to wildly unforeseeable ways, especially in these uncertain climes. But the people behind the government's multibillion-peso weather forecasting and warning system, "Project Noah," beg to differ.

"We refuse to believe that rainfall is a random event," said University of the Philippines scientist Carlos Primo "CJ"

(PROJECT A-11)

Weather forecasting in PH enters 21st century / A-11

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WHAT'S INSIDE

NEWS • **Palace:** Let does treat GMA in PH • Russian punk band sentenced to 2 years, sparking worldwide protests • Catholic schools told to toe line or else... • War evacuees in ARMM told safe to go home • Evelio Javier's widow dies in US; 67 **LIFESTYLE** • **The 'mom porn'** everybody's talking about **ENTERTAINMENT** • **Cutie** hunk's phone studded with pics of fellow hunks • 'Harry Potter' parody coming to Manila; even J.K. Rowling wanted to see the sold-out show but was turned away

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Isabela/Cagayan	Partly cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with light rains	Aurora	Partly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with light rains	Subic	Partly cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with light rains	Tacloban	Partly cloudy
Legazpi	Partly cloudy	Cebu, Bohol	Partly cloudy
Iloilo	Partly cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly cloudy
Kalibo	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Partly cloudy	Davao	Partly cloudy

EZ2 — 2D draw: 31 30
3D draw: 20 6
4D draw: 26 9

SUPER LOTTO 6/49 — 5 8 8 7 8 3 3 0 2

SIX DIGIT (Pinakamalaki) — 1 9 6 1 7 1

ULTRA LOTTO 6/58 — 21 24 26 27 36 41

GRAND LOTTO 6/55 — 15 25 29 31 35 48

P9,201,709.80

P117,936,806.40

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'No need for GMA to leave'

Specialists available at home, says orthopedic surgeon

By Jayson T. Gozzi and Kristine L. Rizos

FORMER President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo does not need to travel abroad to get expert medical attention, an official of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) said yesterday.

Dr. Leo Olarte, vice president of PMA, said realigning the titanium plate implanted in Arroyo's neck to make her breathe and eat easily is a simple, three-hour procedure for any orthopedic surgeon in the Philippines.

Olarte, an orthopedic surgeon who has been following Arroyo's condition, said the former President had every right to choose her doctor and hospital.

But her choice's statement that there are no specialists in the country who can treat her is "unfounded," Olarte said.

Elaborating in considering consulting an independent medical expert to verify Arroyo's condition, Communication Secretary Ricky Carandang said yesterday.

"In the past, we sought credible medical opinion from a third party to verify claims from the Arroyo camp," Carandang said in a text message. "I haven't spoken to the President about it, but I would imagine we'd do the same this time around," he said.

Arroyo is facing electoral sabotage, breach of ethics and plunder charges and the government wants to make sure she remains in the country to face trial.

She is suffering from cervical spondylosis, a degenerative condition of the cartilage of the bones of the neck caused by the chronic erosion of the affected spine. She has had three operations since July last year, and received a titanium plate implants in the bone of her neck.

Shifting implants

On Friday, Dr. Roberto Anastacio, Arroyo's cardiologist at Makati Medical Center (MMC), said exposure that the implants in her neck had declined, causing protrusion that block her air and food pathways.

The condition could lead to "disturbances in blood circulation," which could cause cardiac arrest and "sudden death."

Anastacio said Arroyo's condition was life-threatening, but he ordered her discharged through with the recommendation that she travel to the United States and receive either she could find specialists used to handling "repetitive reconstruction."

He said such specialties and the "support structure" needed in every can the operation were not available in the Philippines.

Olarte disagreed. "From what I've seen on TV of his X-rays and scans, her situation is not life-threatening," he said.

Olarte acknowledged that the titanium plates in Arroyo's neck had moved but he said "there is still an adequate diameter in her esophagus and trachea."

That, he said, belies Anastacio's finding that the plates were increasingly constricting Arroyo's air and food pathways, threatening her life.

Olarte said the complications from the shifted plates could not be that substantial or Arroyo would not have been discharged.

Anastacio's claim that Arroyo could get quality treatment only abroad is "totally unfounded," Olarte said. "There are many orthopedic surgeons and specialists here, and adequate facilities to treat her," he said.

Olarte acknowledged Anastacio's "giving medical advice on surgery of the cervical spine. He noted that Anastacio is a cardiologist. The correct decision-making should be done by an orthopedic surgeon, Olarte said.

For that, Olarte criticized MMC for "impiority" allowing Anastacio's press conference on Friday. "Otherwise, they should have treated a waiver," he said.

Responding to that statement, Matt Pamilar, MMC chief of corporate communications, said Anastacio's remarks during the press conference "were not MMC's statement."

Pamilar pointed out that Anastacio's press conference was held at Dome Cafe at the back of MMC and not at the hospital.

Anastacio and registered radiologist technologist Rubie L. Mendoza and Vincent U. Ilarde signed the medical bulletin issued to journalists on Friday. In that bulletin, Anastacio thanked MMC and gave special mention to MMC medical director Benjamin Alemanza.

With a report from TJ Burgonio

Catholic schools told: Toe Church RH line, or else...

THE TOP official of the influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday warned Catholic schools and teachers to toe the Church line or they may end up in trouble.

Archbishop Jose Palma of Cebu, president of the CBCP, said Catholic schools might be stripped of their affiliation with the Church if they violate religious and ethical teachings.

"If we are a Catholic school, we should not teach anything contrary to the official teachings of the church," Palma said in an interview posted on the CBCP website.

Palma noted that the CBCP acknowledges that there are some differences in the beliefs of teachers and Church teachings on topics like reproductive health.

"In some places, we first talk to them because some teachers may have some misunderstanding of what they think of freedom of conscience or academic freedom," said Palma. "In some of the universities, we say that if you want to teach that idea, do not do it in a Catholic school because we are confusing the students... do it in other universities," he said. *Kristine L. Alave*

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'STRIKE THREE'

Wildlife trafficker barred

By DJ Yap

TURTLE strikes and you're out.

An alleged wildlife trafficker from China who native was caught luring rare Philippine turtles and lizards into Hong Kong has been banned from entering the Philippines again, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has said.

Environment Secretary Ramon Paje said the DENR had been assisted by the Philippine consulate in Xiamen, China, that it would be on the lookout for any visa application by Zhang Wen Wei, a Chinese national allegedly involved in smuggling wildlife into Hong Kong.

In a letter to the DENR, Consul General Adolfo Alapide Cruz said his office would process Zhang's request into the country.

"We are very thankful for Mr. Cruz's decision as there is no room for such kind of tourists whose intentions is to extract and exploit our wildlife resources, especially those considered endemic and endangered," said Paje in a statement.

He also expressed his appreciation to Hong Kong authorities for their efforts at returning to the Philippines the wildlife confiscated by Zhang.

"Inasmuch as we have had laws to protect the country's rich biodiversity, the international community also recognizes the importance of protecting wildlife that are endemic or indigenous to any country or locality, and prevent them from being illegally transported to and up or pets, or worse, as accessories or delicacies," Paje said.

He said that strictly regulating the trade in endemic species would also prevent their possible extinction as foreign or invasive species that may have grave harmful to the country's other wildlife.

Citing news reports, the DENR said that Zhang was first apprehended in Hong Kong on Feb. 8 this year carrying 36 turtles, 20 of them Philippine pond turtles (Siebenrockiella leytensis), endemic to Palawan and considered one of the rarest turtle species in the world.

He was also caught with 26 Asian box turtles (Cuora amboinensis), also categorized as "vulnerable" in the Philippines, although the species declines in other tropical Southeast Asian countries. Zhang was fined HK$8,000 or P43,000 for the offense.

But on April 27, only eight of the Philippine pond turtles and 21 Asian box turtles were returned to the country, the DENR said.

The first penalty seemed not to have deterred Zhang, it added, as he repeated the offense five months later.

On a June 14 flight to Hong Kong from the Philippines, he was again caught transporting 127 reptiles of different species.

He was prosecuted by Hong Kong authorities on June 15 and meted out a six-week jail sentence.

DFA vetting new Cambodian envoy

By Terv Quimpusta

CAMBODIA has appointed a career diplomat as its new ambassador to the Philippines, signifying Phnom Penh's desire to move its relations with Manila forward despite a recent spat over the adoption of a regional position on the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) dispute.

Cambodian press reported over the weekend that Phnom Penh had named Thou Pandin, a career diplomat, to take over from Ambassador Hen Sovyudeth following the latter's recall earlier this month over remarks he made about the Philippines' position on the West Philippine Sea.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) confirmed it was vetting the incoming ambassador but did not say when she was expected to take her post.

"It will go through the process of granting an agreement, we shall process it as soon as possible," said DFA spokesperson Assistant Secretary Raul Hernandez, referring to the document that new envoys present to their receiving countries.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario had earlier said that he saw "no problem with the issuance of an agrément," reflecting optimism about bilateral relations with Phnom Penh.

The Phnom Penh Post reported that Sun, an undersecretary of state, was appointed to Manila following Hen' recall. She had also served as deputy cabinet chief at Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Cambodia's announcement came shortly after Hen Sun had said he had received information that Philippine Navy had relocated "a lady (that's quite high in the ministry)" to become its new envoy to Manila.

The Post further quoted Cambodian foreign ministry spokesperson Koy Kuong as saying that Hen "recalled should not be seen as a "strange" move, as replacing envoys was "a normal diplomatic issue."

Cambodia recalled Hen two weeks ago after the DFA issued a note verbale seeking his explanation for a scathing article he wrote that was published in a Philippine newspaper.

In his opinion piece, Hen accused the Philippines and Vietnam, both claimant countries to overseas club at, lands in the West Philippine Sea, of hijacking "Asean values" in promoting the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to issue a singular stand on the dispute with China during a meeting of ministers in Cambodia in July.

The letter was in response to Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Erlinda Basilio's article that was widely published in Philippine newspapers in July, where she explained why Asean foreign ministers failed to issue a joint communique on the West Philippine Sea issue during the Phnom Penh event.

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H & J JEWELLERS ARE HOLDING A GRAND EVENT FOR THE VALUATION AND PURCHASING OF JEWELRY AND OTHER PRECIOUS OBJECTS

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A couple from London England had a lucky day when they decided that they would go to an event where jewelry professionals evaluated and bought their old jewelry and unused objects.

Among these items was an old watch from the 1930's. The watch was still working and was inherited from his grandparents. Also, they had a couple of broken rings, small gems and small jewelry pieces that they had no intention of using.

They were pleased when they received good news regarding the value of the items. Andrew Harding, Professional Jeweler said, "The couple didn't want me to say the total amount out loud but I can confirm we are talking about thousands of BRITISH POUNDS."

A HIDDEN TREASURE:

Like most readers, you've always had a dream of winning the lottery or finding a pot full of gold, right? Lots of couples are still ignoring the fact that they have hidden treasure sitting in their homes and old objects and jewelry which they've totally ignored its value.

Mr. Harding says, "with all those years estimating jewelry and working with gems, I can bore you a dozen stories of people that brought me objects that they thought had no value at all. I'm sure readers have an object in their mind right now as they read these lines!

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Mr. Harding says, "We will be estimating all objects for free and there is no obligation at all for you to sell your goods. The objects we are looking for are mostly broken rings, watches and old chains. Old gems are also very welcome."

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JCI Philippines

Kaibigan ng magsasaka

Bohol farms are drying up

By Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas

TUBIGON, Bohol—It's officially rainy season but farmers here are staring at land starting to crack for lack of water.

Several rice fields have dried up as palay seedlings have turned yellowish green after almost a month of no rain in Bohol, considered the food basket of Central Visayas.

Water level in a major dam in Pilar town has reached critically low levels, said Larry Bongajon, acting Bohol provincial agriculturist.

AIRLINE PROMO FARES and TOUR PACKAGES

Gov. Edgar Chatto has asked Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala to establish cloud seeding operations to ease the suffering of farmers, like Peregrino Bongcales Jr., of Barangay Cabulijan, Tubigon town.

Bongcales said he has been praying for rain to save his palay and have a good harvest by October or November.

He said palay seedlings had turned yellowish and their fields had dried up due to lack of water.

Unlike in other areas in Bohol which are irrigated, Bongcales said his farm, and other farms in the area, are dependent on rain.

"If there are no rains, our palay will die," he said.

If they won't have a good harvest, Bongcales said the farmers have to fishing while waiting for the next planting season.

Of at least 47,000 hectares of rice field in Bohol, 24,000 are irrigated through dams, small water catchments and diversionary canals. The rest of the 23,000 hectares of farms rely on rain.

Farmers said he asked agriculturist to field to enlist experts of damages to their crops.

So far, three towns have reported that their rice fields had dried up, said Bongcales. These are Carmen, Tubigon and Calape.

He said entire farmers were lucky enough to be able to harvest their palay before the dry spell hit.

Farmers who planted late are the most hit by the lack of water, he said.

If the dry spell continued, the Malinao Dam in Pilar will eventually dry up, said Pemongan.

The dam supplies water to more than 4,760 hectares of rice lands in Pilar and portions of Dimiao and San Miguel Torino.

Pemongan said the dam stopped releasing water on Thursday because it was drying up.

Water level in the dam reached to a critical 1 meter. If the level goes down to less than a meter, water will no longer flow to the rice fields.

To maintain a stable water supply, water level in the dam should be 5 to 6 meters.

CRACKS are starting to appear in rice farms in Tubigon, Bohol, that are drying up because of lack of water. (JUNNEX NAPALLACAN/INQUIRER VISAYAS)

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*Based on GAIKPI reports.
Per ES-WOB Permit No. 5441, series of 2012

Delay in cases vs foreign club execs assailed

GOVERNMENT lawyers have expressed strong objection to what they said were delaying tactics being employed by the defense counsel of eight foreigners accused by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of illegally selling membership shares of Subic Grand Sports Club (SSGC) and who were scheduled to be arraigned on Aug. 14 at the Olongapo Regional Trial Court.

Prosecution lawyer Ben Joshua Salazar and SEC lawyer Jonathan Pagtalunan, in open court, said the "many last-interposed objection" to a defense move to further delay by another 60 days the arraignment of the eight foreigners.

The lawyers of the foreigners sought the deferment while awaiting the court's ruling on a petition for review that they filed.

Salazar said the arraignment had been delayed already and "the filing of the petition for review is not ground for the suspension of arraignment."

Eddy Martin, Department of Justice prosecutor, supported the position of Bañares.

The eight foreigners—Jonathan Peary, Alistair Correin, Matthew Preedon, Thomas Whitwell, Andrew Bates, Ian Strother, Keith Wynne and Hand Duncan Klein—have been charged with violating Philippine laws governing the sale of shares or securities.

They attended the hearing last Tuesday at the Olongapo RTC Branch No. 208. Judge Noemi Ballesteros agreed to defer their arraignment by another 60 days, or two months.

The foreigners are all officers of SSC in Olongapo City, one of the oldest in the country.

The SEC had required the foreigner's motion for reconsideration.

A source of DOJ prosecutor said no new arguments had been presented by the foreigners that would prompt the department into withdrawing the charges against them.

In 2009, SEC found sufficient basis to pursue the complaint against the foreigners that was filed by SSC members Eduardo Ilo, a Cebu-based businessman, and lawyer Roland Sebrio.

On Oct. 26, 2011, an investigating panel of the DOJ found probable cause to charge Theip and the other foreigners of violating SEC rules.

"There is evidence to prove that respondents [named cited officers] offered and sold unregistered/a unregistered membership shares" without authority to do so, said the DOJ panel in its ruling.

"Being securities, the membership shares are required to be registered with the SEC before they may be sold or offered for sale to the public," said the SEC in an answer to the foreigners' petition to junk the case against them.

Evelio's widow dies in US; 67

SUBIC CITY—Prosecutor Cecilia Arriez, the widow of slain opposition leader and former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier, died in Los Angeles on Thursday after years of battling cancer. She was 67.

Precious died in her sleep, according to former Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez, a friend of Precious.

Perez said the elder son of Precious, Francis Gideon, will go to the United States to take custody of his mother's remains and bring it to Antique to be buried beside her husband.

Precious has been living in the United States since the 1980s and has fought for justice for her husband's murder, to no avail.

Javier was gunned down on Feb. 11, 1986, during the canvassing of votes of the 1986 snap presidential elections between ferdinand Marcos and Corazon Aquino, President Aquino's resident. Nestor D'Bargos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

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'VIOLATION OF IMMUNITY GUARANTEE'

CPP hits raised bounty on Red leaders

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE COMMUNIST Party of the Philippines (CPP) yesterday denounced President Aquino's decision to increase the bounty for two communist guerrilla leaders, saying the move showed that the Aquino administration was not serious about resuming formal peace talks with the rebels.

In a statement, the CPP said increasing the reward money for the arrest of Benito Tiamzon and Antje Madlos to P5.5 million violated the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig) which the government signed with the rebels in 1998.

The rebel group said Tiamzon and Madlos were key and prominent officials of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), the latter serving as spokesperson of the NDFP in Mindanao, and were covered by the agreement.

"This latest move reveals the Aquino regime's lack of serious intent with regard peace negotiations with the NDFP," the CPP said.

Tiamzon and Madlos have pending arrest warrants for their alleged involvement in violent incidents, including attacks against civilian targets. National Security Adviser Cesar Garcia accused Madlos of being involved in the attack on the Tagaytay ruins in Tiaong del Monte in October last year.

Maintaining that Jasig remained valid, Tiamzon, the broadcast for Tiamzon and Madlos would not affect peace negotiations with the rebels.

The negotiations between the government and the communist rebels have been stalled since February 2011 after the NDFP insisted that the government should first release 14 prisoners whom the rebels claim were covered by the Jasig.

The Jasig binds both the government and the NDFP to guarantee the security of negotiators, consultants and personnel of the parties engaged in the peace talks, the CPP said.

It added that the agreement prohibits subjecting peace personnel of both sides to surveillance, arrest, detention, filing of criminal charges and any persecution or punitive acts that would impair their effective participation in the peace talks.

"Since assuming power, the Aquino regime has been violating the Jasig with impunity," the CPP said.

The group said the NDFP consultants currently in jail include Alan Jazmines, Tirso M. Cornico, Romeo Capuyan, Ramon Bertuzis, Eduardo Serrano, Eduardo Sarmiento, Benito Collantes and Randy Malayas.

Inaction on Davao vigilantes hit

By Cynthia Balana

THE NEW York-based Human Rights Watch has called on the government to act on the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) to hold local officials in Davao City accountable for the unabated and systematic pattern of extrajudicial killings by a vigilante group in the city from 2005 to 2009.

"The Davao Death Squad statement is an important opportunity for the Aquino administration to show it is serious about holding officials accountable for the worst abuses," Brad Adams, Asia director of Human Rights Watch (HRW), said in a statement.

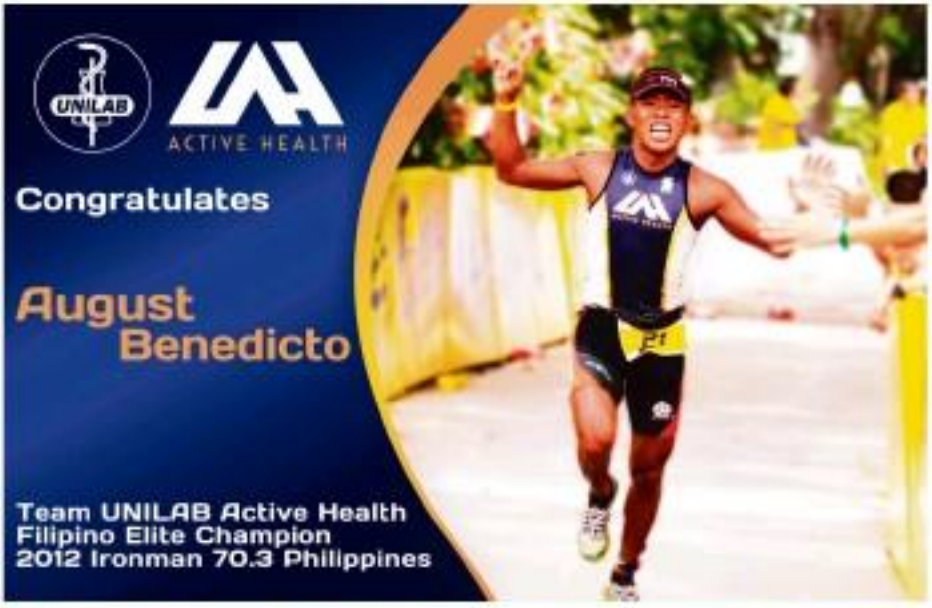
"The government should promptly implement these recommendations," he added.

On Wednesday, the CHR released its findings showing that 206 of 375 reported killings during that period were perpetrated by the so-called Davao Death Squad. The victims were mostly young men and teenagers suspected of criminal dealings.

CHR Chair Loretta Ann Rosales called for a closer examination of extrajudicial killings, especially those Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, for their failure to properly investigate and stop the killings.

Both the CHR and the HRW also called for an in-depth investigation of Duterte's long alleged links to the vigilante group.

"The continuing pattern of killings and the failure to conduct a meaningful investigation of each incident can be construed as tolerance on the part of the authorities of the crimes heretofore described, thereby contributing to the climate of impunity," the CHR report, released on Aug. 15, said.



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PROVINCIAL

THE PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH BILL

The **Philippine College of Physicians (PCP)**, the premier organization of adult medicine specialists in the country and one of the largest specialty divisions of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), strongly believes that the unacceptable maternal mortality rates and disturbing number of abortions in our country call for an imperative to actively promote reproductive health through access to health care and education.

The PCP actively supports the **Reproductive Health Bill** otherwise known as an act providing for responsible parenthood, reproductive health and human development.

FACTS:

(1) With a maternal mortality rate, i.e. no. of mothers dying because of pregnancies, of 221/100,000 live births, the Philippines is among the top 20 countries in Asia with the highest maternal mortality rates (*number 15) and is in the bottom ranking 11th in terms of percentage of births attended by skilled personnel.

(2) The major causes of maternal mortality are hemorrhage and abortion. An estimated 4,600 mothers die annually of preventable childbirth-related problems and an estimated 400,000-500,000 abortions occur or are carried out, of which **a significant number is attributed to unwanted pregnancies**.

(3) The highest maternal mortality rate is happening in the poorest regions of the country as well as in the national capital region. It is directly related to the unavailability of good health care.

(4) NCSO statistics show that poverty is not declining. The situation is made more glaring by incidents of mothers killing their children and themselves, and children committing suicide because of grinding poverty.

5) The Philippines is a signatory to the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) where it pledged to reduce by 75% the maternal deaths (goal number 5). To achieve the 2015 MDG, **maternal mortality rate should decrease by 5.5% annually. Currently, it is decreasing only by 1.4%.**

(6) The House bill seeks to decrease mortality and to improve maternal care by improvement of emergency obstetrical care and by creation of facilities to oversee and evaluate the improvement in health outcomes.

(7) All methods of achieving desired family size, whether by natural or artificial means, have their own flaws. For an overwhelming majority, however, these methods are safe and effective. These should be explained to couples so that they **may freely choose for themselves** which methods are best for them.

We uphold the Hippocratic Oath and strongly condemn abortion. Nowhere in either form, substance, or spirit of the bill is abortion legitimized. We, however, believe in alleviating suffering and in reducing deaths of patients who have had an abortion by providing them access to the proper care.

By the very nature of our profession and vocation, we exist to save lives not just of the unborn child but also of the life of the mother who dies needlessly because she has no access to the appropriate maternal care or the proper education with which to make an informed choice.

We believe in the principle of informed decision-making, not just on the choice and availability of family planning methods but also on the choice and availability of properly trained and professional healthcare providers.

We likewise believe that physicians and health care workers should not be coerced nor penalized if they do not adhere to measures which they believe are against their conscience and principles.

The status quo cannot continue; those who believe that everything is well are blind to the realities that already confront us. The refusal to look at these realities is a major obstacle to our country's progress. It is time for all of us to unite and to avoid emotional entanglement, extremism and the misuse of evidence-based information to disseminate half-truths for their own ends. To call the bill as pro-abortion is a falsehood.

The PCP is steadfast on its mandate to help improve the health landscape of our country. The PCP believes in continuous dialogue among concerned parties and encourages opening up of communication channels to other stakeholders. But the reproductive health bill must be passed... for the sake of the nation, in general, and the women and their children, in particular.

This position statement is a reiteration of the statement made by the Philippine College of Physicians in September 2008.

THE PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
August 2012

AFP to get ₱20B from sale of Jusmag property

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is expected to receive a total of more than ₱20 billion for its modernization program from the sale of one of its properties in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, a three-Cabinet-level Development Authority (BCDA) official said yesterday.

BCDA Executive Vice President Aileen Xate said the disposition of the 34.5-hectare Joint US Military Assistance Group (Jusmag) area in Fort Bonifacio to realty developers would help fund the military's modernization drive.

"The Jusmag area will generate for the Armed Forces of the Philippines more than ₱20 billion over the years," Xate said.

The ₱20 billion is expected to fund the government's planned purchase of warships, jet fighters and other equipment to modernize the military in the coming years.

It intends to buy from the Italian-Israeli consortium Alenia Aermacchi-Elbit Systems armed with surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles and capable of antisubmarine warfare. The ships will cost P15.7 billion.

The Department of National Defense also plans to acquire FOUR multipurpose supersonic jet fighters from South Korea to counter the nation's airspace.

This year, the military will also get two or four of 10 attack Bronco-type aircraft P4.2 billion from France; 21 UH1 helicopters worth P1.2 billion; and multipurpose attack craft (MPAC) and four Sokol helicopters.

Xate announced the expected windfall from the Jusmag property sale during BCDA's turnover of 64 condominium units in Fort Bonifacio to the AFP for the use of soldiers and their families.

"The BCDA does not only help the armed forces expedite the implementation of its modernization and capability upgrade programs, but also empowers the military units by our soldiers through significant projects that help military dependents live a better quality of life," said AFP chief of staff Gen. Jessie Dellosa.

"In return for this commitment assistance and benefits from the BCDA, the 703rd Brigade (Land Sea) will be more motivated to perform our mandates of protecting the people and the state more effectively and effectively," he added.

As of December last year, the BCDA has already remitted P15.1 billion to the AFP from the sale of its other real estate properties.

The House of Representatives has also approved a bill amending the AFP modernization law and providing it with a ₱75-billion budget over the years.

Undersecretary Fernando Manalo, who attended the turnover ceremony of the condominium units in behalf of Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, said these would help boost the morale of soldiers.

The AFP formally received the four residential condominium buildings. Each condominium unit has a total area of 100 square meters with three bedrooms. The five-storey buildings with 16 condo units each are located outside of the Fort Bonifacio Army soldiers.

This is part of the BCDA's Jusmag replacement program, a ₱366-million project which aims to provide the AFP with (1) residential condominium buildings.

Of the 130 buildings being constructed at Fort Bonifacio, nine buildings are to be served for the Philippine Army and one building for the Philippine Army. The two other buildings are located within the retention area of the Philippine Air Force in Villamor Air Base. (With reports from Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Remittances now made more convenient by LBC and Palawan

LBC Express, Inc. has announced that starting August 19, customers can now send and receive money via branch remittance pick-up from LBC to Palawan Pawnshop, and vice versa.

"LBC Remit Express customers will now be able to claim their remittances from any of Palawan Pawnshop's over 750 branches nationwide," according to Janet T. Ong, Executive Vice President for LBC Global Remittance. "Conversely, Palawan Express Pera Padala customers can now claim their money from any of LBC's more than 1,000 branches," Ong added.

"With the combined reach of LBC and Palawan Pawnshop, remittances are guaranteed to be sent instantly, anytime, anywhere," Ong remarked. "We want to make sending and receiving money as convenient as possible for remittance beneficiaries, particularly in the Visayas and Mindanao through Palawan Pawnshop" she said.

"Sending money to major cities and malls in the Philippines will now be made more convenient because of LBC's presence in those areas" according to Alfred Tadd Santos, LBC SVP for Marketing.

Through the partnership, the combined total remittance payout locations of LBC and Palawan Pawnshop will exceed 1,750. "With the support of Palawan Pawnshop, sending and receiving remittances will now be much more convenient, accessible, and available to all, dahil 'Basta abot ng awa, abot ng LBC Remit Express'" Santos added.

Hold-departure order issued vs Cebu governor

KADAYAWAN
Davao City comes alive as it hosts the 27th Kadayawan Festival. The festival is the city's way of giving its 13 tribes and lumad tribes celebrate their good harvests and is also a showcase of the city's colorful costumes and its residents' street-dancing skills.

By Aner Vincent Mayol and Carmel Loise Matan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia and seven others facing graft charges for the alleged irregular purchase of a beachfront property in Naga City, Cebu, are no longer cleared abroad without permission from the Sandiganbayan.

Gov. Garcia, who was asked, tried to attend the canonization rites of Blessed Pedro Calungsod in the Vatican on Oct. 21, said she will file a motion and ask the Sandiganbayan to lift the hold-departure order against her.

She said she expected the issuance of a hold-departure order.

"I would really, really hope that Cebu will be represented in the person of the governor when the canonization of San Pedro Calungsod will be (valued on the 21st of October)," said Garcia.

"We hope that our HR (human resources/secretary) will be seriously considered," she said.

The Sandiganbayan's second division issued the hold-departure order, dated July 24, against Garcia and seven others who were charged with graft for the irregular purchase of 14.7 hectares of property worth P98.9 million which turned out to be mostly underwater or classified as coastal tidal land.

The order was signed by its resident Justices Teresita Diaz-Baldos, Napoleon Inoturan and Oscar Herrera.

Also included on the hold-departure list are provincial treasurer Ray Achabre, provincial budget officer Eutico Ouano, retired provincial assessor Anthony Fuentes, provincial engineer Delegio Pelayre, former Board Member Juan Bebe, landowner Amparo Balili and her lawyer Romeo Bacilla.

The Bureau of Immigration was directed to implement the order.

Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas Pelagio Apostol said the respondents could not leave the Philippines until they have been arraigned.

"The issuance of a hold-departure order is automatic once charges are filed in court," said Apostol in a phone interview.

"They should subject themselves to arraignment before they can seek the permission of the court to leave the country," said Apostol.

"Every time they would leave the country, they have to seek the permission of the court. But, they have to report to the court once they come back here," he said.

Garcia's lawyers have filed a motion asking the Office of the Ombudsman to reconsider its decision to include her on two counts of graft and one count of illegal use of public funds.

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ISRAEL'S TRIBUTE TO THE PHILIPPINES File photo shows the "Open Doors" monument at the Holocaust Memorial Park in Rishon Letzion in Israel, which was inaugurated on June 21, 2009, as a tribute to the Philippine government's act of welcoming 10,000 Jews fleeing the Nazis before the start of World War II in the Pacific. AGA CHAMBERS

Jews also honor Quezon on his 134th birthday

From page A1

John Olchakovsky who saw Nazi storm troopers ransacking through their Jewish neighborhood.

"We caught the last train out of Berlin, they closed the border after us," recalls German refugee Gustabee Leopold, whose house was attacked and ransacked by Nazi soldiers. "There was nothing left. Jews have zero place on the Roots."

The year was 1940. On the other side of the world, a Filipino leader opened his country to fleeing Jewish refugees when no other country would take them.

President Quezon opened the Philippines' doors to up to 10,000 Jewish refugees.

"We were in the Philippines because it was the only place that gave us a visa," recalled Harry Bricker, one of the Jews who escaped captivity, during that March period of ignorance and anti-Semitism.

The German and Austrian Jews were given visas to work in Manila.

'Moral courage'

"Other countries did not think [saving the Jews] was that important, I don't pretend to say" said Quezon's daughter Corazón Quezon Amoretti. "But I know dad had the moral courage to do it because he believed in the sanctity of human life and the right of people to live as they believe they should."

The dramatic rescue plan for the Jews was devised by three men who mapped out a strategy over weekend nights playing poker and smoking cigars. They were: Quezon, who would sanction the Jews' official entry and raise chinese big cash; Jaro Mochkin and Manuel Roxas, the Chief settlement; American High Commissioner to the Philippines Paul McNutt, who rallied his political power convincing US government officials in Isaac thousands of working visas for Jews to the Philippines; and Herbert Pander and his sons, owners of the Philippine-based Helena Cigar and Cigarette Factory, who provided jobs in their factory for the Jews, raised money to transport them to Manila, hosted them housing and schools for their children.

'Open Doors' monument

Quezon was the President of the first democracy in the "Far East," extending safety and liberty to the Jews who would set up the first democracy and Bible-believing state in the Middle East.

The tradition of freedom of worship and support for the biblical "chosen people" would manifest again seven years later when the Philippines became the only Asian nation to vote in the United Nations for the partition of Palestine and the recognition of the state of Israel. Many of the refugees in Manila eventually resettled in Israel.

The Filipinos and Quezon are honored in Israel by an interactive and imposing "Open Doors" monument in Rishon Letzion Metzrad Park just off Tel Aviv built in 2006 in commemoration the historic and spiritual ties between two peoples scattered among the nations, united by their commitment to freedom, humanitarian principles and faith in the God of the Bible.

The story of the Jews' dramatic escape from the clutches of their murderous in the Philippines is recorded in the book "Escape to Manila," written by refugee Frank Epkhahn. A film that records that modern-day Exodus, titled "Exodus in the Philippines," is being produced by Pander Films and 3 Header Communications, a preview of which will be shown on "The 700 Club Asia" on GMA News TV during a "Special Focus on Israel" beginning on Sept. 15.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday - August 19, 2012
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Prv 9:1-6

Wisdom has built her house we open seven pillars; she has slaughtered her beasts, prepared her wine and laid her table. Now, she sent her servants to call from the central square of the city, "Pass by here, you who are fools." To the senseless she says, "Come, eat my bread of the bread and drink of the wine I have prepared. Give up your foolishness and you will live, take the straight path of discernment."

Eph 5:15-20

The attention to how you behave. Do not live as the senseless do, but as responsible persons. Try to make good use of the present time, because these days are evil. So do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk; store it leads to levity; but be filled with the Holy Spirit. Gather together to pray with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and celebrate the Lord in your heart, giving thanks to God the Father in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord, always and for everything.

Gospel: Jn 6:51-58

Jesus said to the crowds, "I am the living bread which has come from heaven; whoever eats of this bread will live forever. The bread I shall give is my flesh and I will give it for the life of the world." The Jews were arguing among themselves, "How can this man give us flesh to eat?" So Jesus replied, "Truly, I say to you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day. My flesh is really food and my blood is drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me and I live in them. Just as the Father who is life, sent me and I have life from the Father, so whoever eats me will have life from me. This is the bread which came from heaven; unlike that of our ancestors, who ate and later died. Those who eat this bread will live forever."

Reflections

Read:

- John 6:51-58. The change in language in these verses alert the author is writing about the Eucharist. This gospel has no reference to the Eucharist as the Last Supper. The Eucharist brings eternal life.

Reflect:

- *What does the Eucharist mean to you? How is this passage related to the previous passage?*

Pray:

- *Pray: Inspire in order to reading and appreciation of the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.*

Act:

- *Visit a church and pray before the Blessed Sacrament.*

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Excellence in Profession and Leadership

Why MMDA traffic aide took it all on the chin

From page A1

to forgo attending because of lack of money.

Febrea was to meet as he recalled the Aug. 11 incident—captured on video by a TV5 researcher—while he was directing traffic at the intersection of Capitol Drive and Tandang Sora Ave. in Quezon City.

The traffic aide tried to apprehend Robert Blair Cambronia, a recruitment executive of Philip Morris Romosa Tobacco Corp., when the latter beat the red light.

After Cambronia's groom-to-be crossed the busy intersection, Febrea gave the car a rap that infuriated the motorist. He saw Cambronia and his brother get out of the car, both of them cursing and swearing at him.

Thinking of daughters

Cambronia removed Febrea' cap and used it to strike him repeatedly. He then hit the traffic aide in the face.

Febrea said he was stunned at first, which moved to fear when Cambronia went to his vehicle. He thought the motorist was going to get a gun.

"I was just so afraid of what might happen," he said.

Febrea said it was the first time he experienced violence from a motorist. "Usually, I would just beat curses," he said.

Fighting back never crossed his mind, however, as he kept thinking of his children—Jonas, 18; Jocelyn, 16; Jeremiah, 15; Jessica, 12; Julianne, 10; and Joanna, 7.

Public outrage

Public outrage was instantaneous after the video of the assault on Febrea went viral on the Internet.

But more than that, it lowered cynicism on the wrongful attitude the traffic aide who takes home a measly P12,000 every two weeks.

Febrea, known to his neighbors as Sonny Boy, is a community called Lupang Pangako (Promised Land) in Quezon City. His 25-square-meter house is one of hundreds of shanties made of rusty corrugated sheets and crude hollow blocks surrounding the towering garbage mountain at the Payatas dumpsite.

Days on a while, the foul smell from the dump wafts into his home on a hilly part of Payatas. "We apologize for the smell," said one of Febrea' neighbors.

HOME for the Febrea family is a 25 square-meter shanty near the Payatas dumpsite. Febrea earns P12,000 every two weeks and they're in debt. Here, he puts on his shoes as he gets ready to go to work. Febrea has a big responsibility in life, taking on the role of both father and mother to his six daughters: Jonas, 18; Jocelyn, 16; Jeremiah, 15; Jessica, 12; Julianne, 10; and Joanna, 7.

The house is almost bare of furniture, the only appliance being a broken karaoke. Febrea had pawned his television set and had not been able to raise the money to redeem it. The family's clothes were piled on a table.

The only decor in the Febrea house are the framed photos of the children in their white togas hanging on one wall.

P330 for food per day

Febrea has to really stretch his tiny salary to partly pay off his debts and the P500 monthly amortization of the house. He can only allot P200 a day for food and other necessities.

"Sometimes it's still not enough so I have had to borrow money from other people just to get by," Febrea said. His debts from the MMDA and colleagues have already grown to P45,000.

But the traffic aide, who took on the role of both mother and father to his six children when his wife, Jalyn, died in June 2008, is still thankful that he has a regular job.

Febrea his wife got sick, the couple would scrounge the Payatas dumpsite for empty bottles and tin cans which they would sell to junk shops. For a year, the money they got from scavenging served to augment the income from Febrea' job.

"We did it on our rest days, but we stopped after my wife died," he said. Febrea and his children blame the dumpsite for his wife's fatal lung disease. Jalyn was only 32 when she died, he said.

Febrea wakes up at 6 a.m. on every day to get his children ready for school, laying out their clothes and preparing their breakfast. He cooks their lunch before he heads off to work.

Joanna, the eldest daughter, sends Febrea' dinner before he comes home from his 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. work shift.

'It's all right, Papa'

His children were "Papa's girls" even when their mother was alive. "We would always go on him for hours (allowance) while he served our food and everything for school," said Jessalyn.

The four younger children each receive a P50 daily allowance and walk the few blocks to Lupang Pangako Elementary School. The second eldest, a fourth year high school student, takes a tricycle to Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma High School on the other side of Barangay Bagong Silangan.

The children said they come home every day to find their family all ready. They said they watch out for each other and always go home together so their father would not have to worry about their safety.

Jocelyn said Febrea is a good father who would always find a way to give her whatever she need, even to the extent of borrowing money from his neighbors or colleagues.

During the children's birthdays and on other special occasions, the father cooks pinakbet or pancit.

Asked if he has gotten over his wife's death, Febrea said: "Not yet, because raising the kids is so hard without her."

According to Febrea, the children share the videos of his ordeal at the hands of Cambronia in a neighbor's TV set and their reactions warmed his heart. "They came to me crying and hugging me," he said.

"It's all right, Papa. The people who've cursed at will help you," he quoted his children as saying.

Support and promotion

True enough, support from organizations, online communities and even from celebrities like comedienne Ariel Ignacio kept pouring.

Ignacio has started a fund-raising campaign to give the exemplary MMDA officer a grand treat. TV host Willie Revillame has invited him as guest in his program on TV5.

When asked what he would want to happen to Cambronia, the mild-mannered traffic aide said: "I am sure learning is in the authorities."

The outcome also seemed here is consistent with reports that since after 27 years of working for the MMDA, Febrea, a high school graduate of San Andres Bukid, co-College Association Baguio City, has never been promoted.

The only thing that could be construed as a promotion was when he was made a traffic enforcer after working for 7 years as a Metro aide whose task was to clean and repaint roads and structures in Metro Manila when the MMDA was called the Metro Manila Commission under former President Corazon Aquino.

Sending girls to college

According to Vera Gonzales of the MMDA's traffic discipline office, Febrea, who has a clean record at the MMDA, has been recommended for promotion to traffic aide 3.

"Maybe this time, it will be for real," said Febrea. He figures that with the prospect of an increase in his monthly salary and the help coming from a lot of people, he might be able to send all of his six children to college.

Febrea' neighbors and colleagues think he had always tried to avoid violence and incurring enemies for his daughters' sake.

That their Cambronia knows about his situation and what a good father he is, he would not have done that to him. He should come to him and apologize," said Dominga Redondo who lives just next door.

Good day to clean house, do laundry

From page A1

Science Secretary Mario Montejo issued a special weather outlook bulletin on Friday, ahead of an extended weekend break because of national holidays on Monday and Tuesday to commemorate of EDSA (Aug. 20) and Ninoy Aquino Day (Aug. 21).

"We anticipate generally sunny fair weather for the long weekend ahead. So best time to resume our usual weekend activities at home or elsewhere with our family and friends," Montejo said.

"It is also the best time to do and hang the laundry, and wash off the road and dirt that built up during the recent monsoon rains and Typhoon 'Helen,'" he said.

But while enjoying their break and the good weather, Filipinos should bear in mind that some areas of Luzon and Mindanao, Montejo said.

"Our hearts go to our people who could not yet go back to normal living conditions and are hoping that the good weather that will somehow help improve their situation," he said.

'Weak southwest monsoon'

Quoting the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), Montejo said the weather bureau forecasts a "weak southwest monsoon will be the dominant weather system to affect the whole country in the next five days, Aug. 18 to 22."

"This means generally good weather conditions, except for isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening," Montejo said.

However, an active low pressure area forming east of Luzon by Sunday could still spoil things during the long weekend.

As of 2 p.m. yesterday, the active low pressure area was estimated at 300 kilometers east-southeast of Aparri, Cagayan, Pagasa said in a 5 p.m. bulletin.

Tropical depression

The Japan Meteorological Agency, however, classified the weather disturbance as a tropical depression, packing maximum wind speeds near the center of 55 kilometers per second, or 54 kilometers per hour, with maximum gusts speeds of 75 mph, or 65 if left.

Pagasa said the most weather disturbance would bring scattered rain showers and thunderstorms in Northern and Central Luzon, becoming widespread over Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino and Aurora, which could trigger flash floods and landslides.

But the rest of the country will see partly cloudy to cloudy weather with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms, Pagasa said.

Moderate to strong winds blowing from the southwest to west will prevail over Northern Luzon, and the coastal waters will be moderate to rough, it said.

Elsewhere, winds will be light to moderate coming from the southwest to west with slight to moderate seas, " Pagasa said.

The Government of Canada on June 29, 2012 passed legislation terminating the processing of all pending Permanent Residence applications filed on or before February 27, 2008 under the Federal Skilled Worker Program. Around 295,000 applicants worldwide will have their applications returned very soon without being processed and YOU COULD BE ONE OF THEM!

There is still a way!

If you are one of those affected by this law, do not be discouraged.
A team of the best immigration lawyers in Canada will be on your side to challenge the legality of this move by the Canadian Government.

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Cecil L. Rotenberg, Q.C.
The Senior Statesman of Canadian Immigration Law
Queen's Counsel
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For inquiries please Contact our Philippine representative law office

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Men in the mirror

THERE WILL be hell to pay, according to the Monday morning quarterbacking that usually follows what is described as a quadrennial exercise in futility. Questions have been asked and doubts raised in the aftermath of still another misadventure in the Olympics. Why did we field an "unqualified" runner who would only finish last in his race? Why did we allow our swimmers to

EDITORIAL

virtually drown in the wake of the likes of Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte? And why did we send into

combat—as gross oppose—a Filipino-Japanese judoka whose performance could last only 64 seconds?

But those nibbling these questions, according to the 11 Filipino athletes who flew to London for the 30th Olympic Games, are completely missing the point of the Olympics, which brings together the youth of the world in a gathering that is both competitive and unifying. They insist, and rightly so, that the Olympics is not about winning medals, and point out that only a few of the 10,500 participating athletes get to stand on the podium. They had worked hard to qualify, putting their lives on hold and sacrificing time, effort, family and even their studies for the right to be called Olympians. They were the best of the Filipino athletes, and in London, they did their best.

Let's not blame the athletes then. They're the victims here.

Still, Olympic performance is a reflection of the state of sports development and a matter of national pride in each country. The Philippines, alas, fell off the medal table after Lydia Dy-yengkiu bested Montserrat "Onyok" Velasco three years ago with silver from Atlanta in 1996. It has since been a losing streak; Sydney, Athens, Beijing and London have all been disasters.

Does again, what ails Philippine sports?

The sedative goes all the way up to the national leadership and to failure to grasp the concept of sports and physical fitness as a tool for nation building. When we kicked out the dictator in 1986, the new dispensation also killed the goose that laid the golden eggs in sports. Project. Gloxy. Nop. the highly successful sports program that spawned the likes of Lydia de Vega and Isidro del Prado in less than a year, was abandoned, mainly because it was the brainchild of Ferdinand Marcos' nephew. In its place, the new Congress legislated the Philippine Sports Commission, which eventually became a tool of presidential appointees, politicians and their surrogates. The PSC took over the functions of Ginoong Ahay and those of the education department for both the elite program and the grassroots, school-based program. But somewhere along the way it was embroiled by politicians.

The Philippine Olympic Committee has not been of much help either, with its leaders becoming embroiled in power plays with what were supposed to be autonomous national sports associations (NSAs). Its hand showed in the leadership struggle in basketball, badminton, cycling, billiards and equestrian.

To compound things, the government reduced funding for sports by half, or an estimated P700 million a year. Sports leaders clamored for the restoration of that budget, even threatening to hale the national government to the Supreme Court. But those out of the loop wanted that money in the hands of the corrupt and incompetent who money wasted.

What to do to turn things around? The national leadership needs to find the resolve to draw up a coherent and properly funded national sports development program, covering both the grassroots and the elite section, to be run by credible and competent leaders and complemented by privately financed corporate programs on mass sports to cover the rest of society. The idea is to make sports both a way of life and a state of mind.

Politicians masquerading as sports leaders and sports leaders behaving like politicians have long held Philippine sports hostage, luring the athletes and the NSAs as pawns in their play for power. The debacle in London is an indictment, not so much of the performance of our athletes as of the quality of their leaders. It's time for the corrupt, the incompetent and the power-hungry to go.

As the athletes and their coaches returned from London early last week and picked up from where they had left off in their lives, sports leaders again vowed to go "back to the drawing boards" to grapple with the nagging question: Bibarbo did we go wrong?

They only have to look in the mirror to find the answer.

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The day my laptop died

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

AS SOON as I pressed the power button, the Windows logo appeared on the laptop's screen, with the familiar message: "Welcome. Please wait." But nothing else happened after that. For the first time in its brief new hands-on life, my barely one-year-old computer failed to say hello. It was as if it found itself in a dark, deeper-

sorely grappling with the sudden loss of its own memory. Finally, a blue sky with a little sailboat and a wisp approaching a faint light appeared on the screen. "Oh no," I muttered in horror, almost certain that my poor machine had been attacked by a virus. The hard disk drive itself had crashed.

Frantic calls to my daughters Sad, who understands the quirky ills of computers, for her no than I do, helped me boot the client black laptop on "safe mode." She then came over to back up all my files on a USB flash disk. Aghast that I had not taken the precaution of creating a "recovery disk" for use in case of system failure, she promptly made one for me. "In case of ways replace the hard disk, she said, but if you have your files you may not be able to retrieve them.

In the next few hours, I counted my poor ailing laptop into professional's diagnosis of its true state of health. It offered to "defragment" bits of memory belonging to the same files or programs that appear to have been dispersed across different sectors. It checked the conditions of its application programs, and, finally, it found me to be a clean bill of health. Well, not at all certainly it then announced that it had detected errors in its hard disk drive, and offered to repair them.

I was thoroughly impressed by this machine's capacity for self-analysis and self-healing, and I quickly availed of these services. But my hopes were quickly dashed. There is a limit to what even the most sophisticated computers can do once its hard disk is damaged. My computer appears to have recovered from the brink—it was merely a head fault. The blue sky and the white had vanished, and inconvenienced many of the listeners. For Jesus, smiles has or he said and proclaimed in season and out of season. The challenge for us is to bring to the words, and in doing so, cling to Him. In other words, faith is not so much a doctrine as a personal encounter. We believe in Him, the way the truth, and the life.

* * *

Someone noted that we should go beyond our "parochial mentality" (herself) and go into our "pandesal mentality" (myself). Naturally, we hold ourselves invisible, quantifiable, and controllable. But we are called by Jesus to wider horizons and an ever-greater love. Called to that which meets the eye. As Mother Church has taught us, yes, grace builds on nature, but nature is perfected by grace.

* * *

Our "parochial mentality" can weigh us down as we journey on. On the other hand, our "pandesal mentality" can uplift us as we journey on. We need to strike a healthy balance of work and faith as we journey on.

* * *

We join our Muslim brothers and sisters in their celebration of Eidul Fitr, the end of Ramadan, fasting from earthly food and pleasures to something that lifts up the soul and frees the spirit. It is a season of tremendous renewal. Let us ask ourselves today: Am I eating too much? Look around you. There are so many people who have no food! Let us also ask ourselves today: Am I eating the right kinds of food? Think food-life. Think food for the soul as well.

* * *

Aug. 22 is the Feast of the Queenship of Mary. May we not belittle or ignore this simple woman with great faith. Here is a simple prayer I pray to her every day: "Oh, my Queen, oh, my Mother, remember that I am your very own. Defend and protect me as your personal possession." Amen.

* * *

As we commemorate Ninoy Aquino Day on Aug. 21, let us ask our government leaders today what they have given up, what they have sacrificed for our country. He will Christ. Payback time? This country has been good to you. Stop stealing and start serving to the max!

* * *

Think about this: There are people who eat and drink Jesus' flesh and blood every day, but seem not to assimilate His spirit. They eat the living bread but do not have life in them. There are people who are prayerful, but are so selfish, proud, and deceitful. Yes, it's not what you eat, but what eats you.

* * *

Sharing with you again this beautiful and meaningful prayer: "Lord, help me to live the rest of my life, the best of my life." Amen.

* * *

Jimmy Mozenly invites you to a lay forum on "Depression: Cause and Prevention" on Aug. 25 at Jensen Hall, Christ the King Seminary, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, with Dr. Imma Santos-Klinger as speaker. For inquiries, please call 377-2263/998-2346 or 0917-5437659.

* * *

Amusement with the Lord:

Lord, help me to stop beyond my "pandesal mentality." Instead "pandesal" mentality." Amen.

jdavid@mail.com

'Pandesal mentality'

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

SOMEONE SENT me this text message: "If you eat bread today, you will feel full tomorrow. But if you eat Jesus Bread.... you see a flying pan!"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 6, 51-58), Jesus speaks again about food, saying that He Himself is the living bread from heaven and that whoever eats this bread (Himself) will live forever. As you can imagine, and to fact, as it is clear from today's Gospel, the Jews quarreled among themselves over this issue. But Jesus stood by His words. A man of Jesus' stature would have been elaborated or altogether lobbed up.

* * *

The "Bread of Life" discourse was not an easy issue then. It divided the people, and it made many of Jesus' followers abandon Him. Even now, it is a difficult topic to discuss in a world that would rather talk about simple bread for hungry stomachs. I personally find it difficult to write or talk about this mystery, but I hold on to its importance, hoping that I will understand it more eventually. Why? Well, if Jesus intended its truth and importance, then I believe that it is true, and important.

* * *

There are many things we cannot explain and understand in this life. This is where belief and faith come in, and maybe that is all that the Lord asks of us: many times in our go through life, as it were, faith is an invitation to go beyond what is quantifiable and turn to that which is unknown and unseen. Birth is by no means a downgrade. It turns us up, and it helps us "see" more clearly, mildly, deeply.

* * *

Did you notice how Jesus put forth "heaven" touchings as He went about His public ministry? He said many "out of this world" words which endured and inconvenienced many of the listeners. For Jesus, smiles has or he said and proclaimed in season and out of season. The challenge for us is to bring to the words, and in doing so, cling to Him. In other words, faith is not so much a doctrine as a personal encounter. We believe in Him, the way the truth, and the life.

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jdavid@mail.com

Moving on to greatness

THOUGH DEEPLY aggrieved and disappointed, Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro has decided to move on. She will no longer contest her exclusion by the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) from the short list for chief justice.

Noncompetitive. She prudently retreated from her all-to-self confident tweeting the September 2010 Senate-led Rule of the Philippines (SRP) and the JBC of conspiring to single her out from the list. Rep. Sherwin Gatchalian, a JBC member and staunch Aquino ally, explained that the council merely applied its seniority rule disqualifying candidates with pending "regular" cases in the Supreme Court.

The disbarment case against Secretaries and Ex-change Commission Chair Teresita Herbosa had been dismissed, while that against Solicitor Gen-eral Francis Jardeleza was merely in its initial stage, with no prima facie finding yet. In short, their cases have not become "regular."

Not so with the Supreme Court's ruling a dubious nurse complaint to the JBC case it be said that a private facie case exists and that an administrative case has become "regular." Prior to such referral, the case could be summarily dismissed for utter lack of merit on its face. But if—after preliminary proceed-ings—the Ombudsman finds merit in the complaint is referred to the IBP for factual hearings. At that stage, the JBP must investigate and later on report its findings to the high court; it has no power to dismiss it summarily.

For lack of justice de castro, the Supreme Court dismissed it and the dubious nurse case against Justice Teresita T. Leonardo. Hilting justices can be removed only by impeachment, which is under the exclusive domain of Congress. If successful, impeachment results automatic removal from the high court because bar membership is continuing requirement for sitting justices.

In any event, De Lima is an ex officio JBC member. If she wants to, she can always ask for the **cancellation of the disqualification rule.** Finally, I believe she has the guts and skills to be a really outstanding secretary of justice. Meanwhile, she may

WITH DUE RESPECT
Antonio U. Pangalangan

just be living passed, tested and prepared for an office higher than the chief magistracy. So, move on she must. Onwards her destined greatness.

Kabar na kita. Bb. Pilipinas 2012 can rightfully be proud of its work. It coiled all simplicities of being a "super-star" club. Though a little delayed by its self-imposed immobile, it never blinked in upholding the Constitution and the rule of law.

For the first time in its 25-year history, it included all candidates—those of them—in its short list for chief justice. Also, for the first time, it required all candidates to submit their statements of assets, liabilities and net worth, income tax returns and bank account matters. It refused to exempt sitting justices from the psycho-neuro tests. It published for voting tally sheet, showing how the members voted, including the list of those who did not select. Of the 10 candidates (having been disqualified, Dr. Lims was no longer voted on), she got seven votes.

Many candidates surrendered the JBC regular members who carry only the rank of Court of Appeals justices, certainly lower than the Supreme Court and Court of Tax Appeals members. But, in setting boundaries, the regulars performed their work doggedly, capriciously and promptly.

Especially courageous and steadfast was retired Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura, whose appointment in the JBC has not yet been confirmed by the Commission on Appointments. Unyielding to the armed and vested according to her conscience and to the best interest of the nation, despite her political, jeers and cruel, clandestinages.

Reformist (1): After exhausting a lot of political capital to oust a chief justice whom he felt was unfit for the job, President Aquino naturally wants a sophomoric who shares his passion for good governance and who walks only the "narrowed no door," at the straight and narrow path.

I think he would have been comfortable with Justice Franklin Drilon, who however reportedly declined nomination. Had he agreed to be retired, Drilon would have been a shoo-in. Many insiders including Justice Carpio would have deferred to Drilon, even if he were on consider. He has the stature, experience and gravitas to lead the high court. But he explained during our pre-interview appointment after participating in the impeachment of the previous occupant, he felt awkward pursuing for the post. Refinement of the term kind indeed.

P-Noy would have been comfortable also with De Lima because he personally knows how going he she is with his sinister motive and unexpressed agenda. After she was disqualified, the President will most have to order from nominees he has not worked with and with whom he may not be so comfortable.

But this is really how it should be. A chief justice who is perceived to be too close to the President will not be credible because—in serious cases, justices must not only be independent and fair, they must also be perceived to be so by our people. In fact, the chief relationship between the President and the Chief is not one of comfort and contour, but of circumspection and constant cooperation. This is how the nation's checks and balances best thrives.

From the short list, P-Noy will surely choose a nominee otherwise who will push the frontiers of justice beyond the ordinary, clear up the judicial sudden, and speed up the delivery of quality justice.

In this environment of counter tension, mutual cooperation and conscious rebuttals. The new Chief—along with the President and the nation—will move on to greatness.

• • •

(Comments to: abalfon@inquirer.net.ph and antonio.pangalangan@abs-cbn.com)

August 7

IT WAS raining. A man stood on what used to be his home carrying a borrowed umbrella, black pressed with a pattern of hearts, pink and purple and bright red. The water that rose to the ankles was the same red as the hillside that collapsed at 7:30 that morning.

The man with the umbrella stood on his home. Not inside, because his house was gone, crushed under soil and filth and stone, insensitive of the family under it. Eight of them were found dead. Four were his children, three his grandchildren. His wife was found alive, but she died later that night in the hospital. She was in the hospital. One daughter is severely harmed.

METHOD TO MADNESS
Patricia Evangelista

This is the story of Jessie Baylon Sr., 50 years old, told a day after the storm that had no name.

• • •

I came from the city of Bacolod. I looked at the situation and I knew no matter what I dreamed of becoming, it didn't matter. My parents were poor, and even if I wanted to study we couldn't afford it.

My dream was to become a driver, because I thought it would be a fun job. I'm from what I could get as a laborer on sugarcane wage. I thought it would be the only dream I could attain.

My first job was as a houseboy until my boss decided to put me through driving school. I started how to drive, and I studied hard. I was a driver at a gamemaker factory when I met my wife. She was a supervisor. That was when we fell in love. Even if you say she wasn't beautiful, for me, she was beautiful, and she was kind. She took care of people. That was all.

When we started having children, my one dream was for the children to go to school. I don't have much education, but I've seen people who have, and they get far in life and manage to receive good jobs, not like the rest of us. My wife felt the same way.

We ended up in Lhuz because I knew the land belonged to the government, and I didn't have to pay anyone rent. I could build my house little by little. That was all I could afford, and I couldn't build a house beyond my means because the children were studying. We would barely afford food and transportation. So we were grateful.

When I was choosing the place to build the house with the man who sold me the rights, there was barely any land left. Everything was occupied. I really didn't have much of a choice. I said okay, at least I had a place to build a house and call it my own.

About 10 years ago there was a landslide. It didn't do too much harm, just soil that fell on my house and a few cracks on my concrete walls. The media noticed, anyway, and reported it, after that some geologists from the University of the Philippines came by and said that it was a danger zone. We ignored them, because the government's option for relocation was to the mountains and it was too far away. My kids study in the area, my job is in Cogon—everything we need would go to transportation from there to work and I would be left exhausted. It's only me who supports the family, and I couldn't do it from Montalban.

When we started having kids, I said my wife we would have only two children, and then we would space them with man's years. But we ended up with four children, especially those rhythm things, we sort of understood a little but sometimes it would fail. So sometimes there would be a gap, sometimes it would be close, sometimes a few more years, and then there they were and I didn't want to do those abortion things. So I let it be until we ended up with that, seven.

I can tell you the ages by year, but I don't remember the months, my mind is a little confused now. My eldest will turn 22 on Dec. 25, he's 24 now. The rest followed, one after the other—22, 22, 21, 19, something like that. The rest, their ages were close. My eldest is Jay, or Jessie Jr. The second is Jessica. The third, Jeanelyn. The fourth, Jayvee, the fifth, Arthes. The sixth, Jason. The seventh is Jezelle.

My wife was ironing when I woke up that day. I bought coffee and spaghetti from the vendors down the street. My daughter Jeanelyn's classes for work at 7:30, and I brought her breakfast so she could get out and take her before leaving. I left at 6:30. I'm a driver for a company, so my boss knows I'll work. It was one of my neighbors who was also a driver. He told me to go home, to come back, that he came something had happened.

I went down from the jeep, and took a cab going back because I wanted to get there fast. The rain was pouring hard. I was running, running fast, down to our house. What I got there I saw a crowd around where I thought my house should be. Somebody said, "Sir, the landslide buried your house. Your family is underneath."

I ran and kept running, right into this skinny alley where the water was rushing and I shouted if anyone was still alive, is anyone still alive? It was Jay who answered. He said, "Pa, I'm here, I'm stuck, be careful getting me." The people were trying to move the house off him and he was getting hurt. He helped, I pushed until my fingers and feet were bleeding from scratches. We got him out little by little. We kept scrabbling at the dirt, and the rescuers kept coming. Five, three, MMDA, the local officials, they all came. But the place was so small that only a few could get in at a time. So we dug, and the rescuers had to bring stretchers in. So we dug. We got Jay out first, then we saw Jeshua. We saw his face sticking out over the crossing water. There was cement both sides and on top of him and his feet had turned black. And I said to myself, God, that's it. We dug for him, anyway, even knowing he was dead.

We dug and we dug and we dug and we dug until it was at seven feet and we had found everyone, all the kids.

Then I'm focused on Jep. He has to survive. There are no few of us left, just him and Jennelyn. I don't know how to begin again after this. Sometimes I think of what happened, and I can't accept it. I keep seeing the bodies being pulled out, how they were dug out, and how my house fell.

If I had any regrets, it's that I couldn't provide my family with shelter. I couldn't keep them safe. Maybe they'd now my means are limited, maybe they understood. If I had the money it would have been different. What father would make his family live in squatters if he had a choice? You'd give your family a decent home if you could. I couldn't.

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To donate to the Baylon family, please send donations via Jessielyn M. Baylon, BDO account number 39958 50427. She can be contacted via 09154410555. This story was written with reporting by Ruth Fernandez and Rappler.com.

Who promotes abortion?

"THE SINGLE biggest promoter of increased abortions in the Philippines is the anti-RH movement," says a coalition of 15 women's groups in a statement. The groups were reacting to statements made by "anti-RH" senator Tito Sotto, who, "based on evidence culled from Facebook, blogs and other similar sources ... accuses several organizations and civil society leaders of promoting abortion."

The statement goes on to note, saying that those against reproductive health in the Philippines "fanatically oppose family planning, postabortion care and sexuality education ... in the guise of being 'pro-life.' Yet those 610 measures are the ones that actually increase the incidence of abortion."

It certainly makes a lot of sense: since giving women access to family planning, giving them the means to act on their reproductive plans, means they would in most cases get pregnant only when they want to, and have only the number of children they want. "Effective family planning centered on unplanned pregnancies," the groups say, noting that an unwanted (or reserved or unplanned) pregnancy is frequently "the starting point of most women's decision to undergo an abortion."

At the same time, "Restrictive postabortion care reduces women abortions through counseling and immediate access to contraception," the groups say. "Sexuality education by trained schoolteachers ... cuts down teenagers' risky sexual behaviors."

"With a cheap," proclaim the groups. "Without it, it's a ticket to misery and death."

In fact, during the 10 years of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's administration, during which efforts to pass an RH bill were frustrated by both legislative stalemate and the orders of the President, the government's "failure to protect mothers" was abysmal." Data from a regular national survey on maternal health (the NSS II) show that in 2008, after years of campaigning and hundreds of millions of pesos spent for natural family planning, "less than 1 percent of married women reported using the LAM method. From 1993 to 2008, teenage pregnancy rates rose steadily from 5.5 to 9.9 percent. This could very well have been the result of the failure of the government to implement a program on sexuality education, after nearly

AT LARGE
Nina Jimenez-David

protests drowned out the voices of rationality.

• • •

IT IS difficult to pin down with certainty the total number of induced abortions in this country, owing to its illegal status and the fear of harassment or arrest of those undergoing the procedure, but the 2008 WHO estimate that 15 percent of all births—pregnancies that ends it to term—were unplanned, equivalent to some 1,300 unplanned births every day. A study puts the number of abortions at the time at roughly 473,000 per year.

In 1972, anti-RH groups attribute the growing number of abortions to the "contraceptive mentality," implying that only women and men of sinister intentions—those who "don't want to" would seek an abortion or support their partners' decisions. But what about those who wanted to delay or space their pregnancies but didn't have the money or their partner's permission to use protection? What of victims of rape or incestuous rape? Or young people who didn't know any better until they found themselves pregnant or had made them get pregnant?

Should a woman pregnant with a child she had wanted and planned cease to be abortion?

"Whatever the exact number [of abortions] is, most abortions in the Philippines are performed and could have been drastically reduced by programs mandated in the RH Bill," the groups say. "Would" is a telling statement for those who drive women and girls to ignorance, unintended pregnancy, life-threatening abortions, inhumane postabortion care, undue harassment, social stigma, imprisonment and death."

• • •

YOU might still remember this old poster showing a man with a huge pregnant belly, and the headline: "If men could get pregnant, abortion would be a sacrament."

But what if more and more convenient means of contraception (aside from condoms use, vasectomy and celibacy) were available for use by men? Maybe contraception would not exactly be a sacrament, but I would bet that more men would be fighting to promote and protect their own reproductive rights.

Well, we may very soon be able to test this premise. A report sent to me, accessed through the online magazine "The Huffington Post," states that researchers at the Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar have reportedly discovered a compound, known as JQ1, that "penetrates a boundary in the cells of the male testes and shuts off sperm development to the vasectomy." The result, it's pointed out, is a form of male-initiated birth control that is "instantly reversible."

• • •

HAMED may remember some columns I wrote some months back about the efforts of researchers from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland to develop a male contraceptive that uses a chemical found in a common plant in the countryside.

The leaves of the plant, sweetleaf, are usually given to rabbit men who wanted to increase their sperm count, but could not afford an elaborate wedding ceremony.

There are many reasons for men wanting to use contraception, said, it seems, a growing number of researchers searching for a "pill for men." If men had more access to and more choices among available and effective contraception, would male opposition to reproductive health disappear? Certainly, male legislators like Senator Sotto would be a lot less judgmental.

Olympolitik

WORLD VIEW
Zaki Laïdi

PARIS—Is there a link between economic power and Olympic medals? Is a form of indisputability in sports emerging as political indisputability sets in?

In 1960, immediately after the Cold War's end, the United States and the former Soviet Union's "United Team" won a quarter of the medals in Barcelona. Global hegemony had not yet vanished. By the 2000 Beijing Games, the world had changed significantly. The United American dropped half-right—its way to win the Olympics, which won a combined 20 percent of the medals.

The recent London Games confirmed this trend. The Sino-American duopoly has loosened large in the medal counts (31 percent of the total), but not sociopaths so. Europe remains strong, while India and the Caribbean have made significant headway.

There are, in fact, four factors behind Olympic power: population size, sports tradition, sport's policy, and level of development. Taken separately, none of these factors can explain a country's Olympic record. Collectively, however, their explanatory power is relatively large.

For starters, population size is a source of power: it simply becomes large countries can take advantage of their greater human potential to draw on a broad array of disciplines. Countries with great demographic potential therefore inherently have great Olympic potential. Conversely, Australia appears to be the only country with less than 30 million inhabitants to have won more than 5 percent of the medals at its home Olympic Games.

But, of course, a large population is not always a recipe for success. The most striking example is India, one of the least sports-oriented countries in the world, given its demographics. (It medals for more than 1.2 billion inhabitants—the same number as China, which has a population 300 million smaller.)

Clearly, India's society has a complex relationship with sports. But the disparity between its demographic size and its Olympic success also shows that political indisputability and sports-related indisputability are not just from the same mold.

India is probably the most questionable counter-example, but it is not the only one. Countries like Brazil, Argentina, Turkey, and Mexico are dwarfed by countries like South Korea. Overall, it is fair to say that South American and the Middle East remain fringe players at the Olympics. The Caribbean, for example, far outranks Brazil.

National traditions are the second important factor in Olympic success. First, there are physical and cultural traditions. Ethiopian long-distance is childhood at a means to reach, say, a distant school in the highlands. And the Caribbean does not necessarily offer many sports activities because track and field, for which relatively few material resources are needed to create champions. This is one of the reasons why Haiti lives, the Caribbean, and to a lesser extent the Maghreb states in Northwest Africa) are prominently represented in Olympic running disciplines.

But traditions can also be created. The French are not culturally or physically predisposed to dominate sports such as judo, gymnastics, and swimming, in which they have achieved distinction for more than 50 years. A national sports policy can be conducive to good results.

Such policies embody a country's choice in developing into a sports power. In this respect, it is a great deal of autonomy to various federations (as in the United States and Britain), diverse significant public resources to sports for political purposes (as in Russia and other ex-communists), or involves publicly financed sports institutions from participants politics in order to ensure continuity (as in Germany and France).

On the other hand, the absence of a real sports policy for its unwitting) can become a decisive handicap. Indeed, how else to explain the poor performance of a country as well-endowed in technological, or as highly populated as Nigeria? And what about the relatively poor international performances if not a coherent sports policy?

Finally, a country's level of development, as we have seen, is far from being decisive in Olympic success, especially in the running disciplines. Runners can crawl and train individually on the least resources.

Obviously, however, development does play a significant role. While sports like running are relatively inexpensive, others—including gymnastics, swimming, and even more so team games—require significant financial and material resources. It is no coincidence that the Caribbean and Africa do not have a presence in these first places at the highest levels of competition.

Indeed, of the 10 countries that received the biggest numbers of medals at the London Games, all except China and Cuba are OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) members. There are no less-developed countries, with the possible exception of Ukraine, in the top 15.

Thus, while economic power is not a prerequisite to Olympic power, multipolarity in sports remains positively correlated with it, since it received only 3 percent of all medals in London. But, if the continent can sustain its recent economic growth, that number will almost surely rise.

Project Syndicate

Zaki Laïdi is professor d'international relations at Institut d'études politiques de Paris.—Translation Ed.

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TALK *of the* TOWN

Please send feedback to: jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Libre Jason V. Sarmiento Jr.

RAINWATER PONDS

'Instant-noodle' fix to flooding

By Tony Oposa Jr.

LET ME tell you a story. One day, UN scientists announced that in three days, because of rapid climate change and an impending 20-meter sea level rise, there would be massive floods all over the world.

The leader of the United States announced that in three days, they would build huge boats that would accommodate all of the 300 million people of America. Thus, they would all be saved. The leader of China announced that in three days, all 1.3 billion people of China would evacuate to the Himalayan Mountains. Thus, they would all be saved.

The leader of the Philippines went on a 10-media TRO and said: "My countrymen, the sea patrols tell us that after three days, we will all be underwater because of floods and a 20-meter sea level rise. My beloved countrymen, we still have three days to learn how to become underwater."

We Filipinos are resilient and adaptable. We only need proper guidance.

Causes of flooding

What causes flooding?

Many reasons have been given: improper drainage, improper garbage disposal, wrong (or no) land-use planning, rapid climate change, etc. These are all correct. But the bottom line of why there is flooding is really quite simple: Excess water has nowhere to go.

Every problem contains the seed of its own solution. The answer to flooding is really very simple: Give the excess water a place to go.

But what have we done? We have paved with concrete all available lands—including wetlands, low-lying and flood-prone areas—and turned them into subdivisions and commercial centers.

In other words, where there used to be water we built human settlements. And then we complain that there is water in the form of floods. Excuse my tongue-in-cheek sarcasm today.

New norm: excessive rain

Experts have been telling us that these floods will be the new normal. They say we must accept that the waters we will be able to address its consequences.

A map from the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration shows the hottest areas on Earth—temperatures from 1993 to 2008. (See map.) Note that the biggest patch of red (indicating the hottest body of water) is located west of the Pacific Ocean, right east of the Philippines.

Scientific evidence shows that this hot water is the fuel of more frequent and more intense typhoons. In fact, this area is the "factory" where all our typhoons come from. With a hotter water temperature, there is greater evaporation and formation of clouds. Because what goes up must come down, the heavier clouds come down as heavier rains.

In other words, let us accept the facts:

- There will be more frequent, intense and weird typhoons.
- Flooding, as a result of excessive rainfall, is here to stay and will only get worse.
- Unless we understand that and learn to unleash the Filipino genius of resilience, we will be consigned to commit the same mistakes over and over again.

Solution

The solution: Rainwater catchment ponds, reservoirs and lakes.

Again, why is there flooding? Because excess water does not have a place to go. Solution: Find a place for it to go. How difficult can that be?

The government should therefore find vacant spaces, especially in low-lying areas, and excavate the hell and turn it into ponds, reservoirs and lakes so that excess water will have a place to go.

It hurts to think that all the government has been doing is to sell government lands for "development." The PH Dead Terminal Inc.), with an area of 74 hectares, is now being sold to the highest bidder to be turned into another commercial development (Manila Land Inc. now has the bidding two weeks ago).

QC's last lung

The Manila Seedling Bank, the last lung of Quezon City now threatened to be turned by the local government supposedly for commercial development.

The same fate befell the thriving Bank Plaza (now a commercial center). The Bonifacio Shell Center, UP Ditimarin, Ilaya (the remaining ancient lands in military reservations in the metropolis are planned to be sold to commercial developers.

Do we really need all these malls and commercial developments? How much do we spend for "relief" efforts? How much is the damage to life and property that result from every flooding episode? Can we not set aside some of these for open spaces for parks and possible evacuation centers? Mr. Gobernes, hanggang para pare-pareho lang ba talaga tayo?

Singapore experience

On Aug. 9, there was a special feature in a national newspaper titled "The Singapore water story." Its key vulnerability: dry spells/drought." The city-state has a land area of about 70,000 hectares (slightly larger than Metro Manila's 67,000 hectares). Because it lacks an uncertain freshwater source, Singapore may as it is, has devoted almost 70 percent (or almost 50,000 hectares) of its land into water catchment areas.

"Rainwater is collected through a comprehensive network of drains, canals, rivers and reservoirs across the island before it is channeled to Singapore's 17 reservoirs for storage.

Two thirds of Singapore's land is water catchment today."

In my recent visit to Singapore, I was informed that it was nearing 70 percent.

My question, here we are, suffering from all these floods year after year, rain after rain, and we have vast areas, unwisely selling off all the available government lands to commercial developers to be paved over with concrete. All in the name of dubious economic progress and development. And then we complain of floods?

In the words of a 20th century thinker, "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result" is the exact definition of insanity.

Ponds' costs, benefits

The picture above is a 12-square meter rainwater pond dug in the lowest part of a patch of land south of Manila. It is a simple illustration of how a rainwater catchment pond looks like and what the benefits are:

1. Being on the lowest portion of this land, the pond is where many will naturally accumulate by digging a hole, the excess water will have a place to go.
2. Since the bottom of this pond is not paved with concrete (and would normally be permeable for water and soil erosion), the excess water is absorbed back into the ground to replenish the depleted groundwater table (aquifer).
3. It only cost P1,000 of "labor"—two people (Eg., going for two days and this is only half a meter deep. What if more people dig for more days? Or hasten yet, what if pieces of heavy equipment are used for larger areas? The math will certainly be accomplished much faster.
4. To prevent it from becoming a breeding ground for mosquitoes, populate it with fish. There is a variety of species. Also, frogs (which eat mosquito wigglers) by the hundreds) will normally populate the pond.
5. To prevent the water's oxygen from being depleted, put water lilies and hyacinth—nature's amazing water cleansing and aeration mechanisms. The roots of the hyacinth suck in the dirt from the stagnant water and release cleansed oxygen.
6. Fruit-bearing trees (papaya, rambutan) can also be planted in the shallow portions of the pond. Other vegetables and fruit-bearing trees like papaya and banana can also be planted along the banks. There is no reason why one in every line of our people should go hungry.
7. Bigger ponds and inlet lakes also provide a place for nets, paintic nets (catching fishing, hunting, swimming) and, of course, a ready source of food.
8. These reservoirs will provide a source of water during dry seasons.
9. Oh, by the way, it will also prevent flooding.

Over a year ago, I met with two high-ranking officials of the Aquino administration. One promised to work with a supposedly progressive local government executive to engage a basic rainwater catchment pond in its area. Whenever happened to this plan, only God knows. In this not the same local government that has converted the Quezon Memorial into a parking lot? In Ilocos?

The other official is from the department in charge of the roads. I think (or transfer (UCT) program. I humbly suggested that in areas of a portion of the conditions can be for the engineers to work and put up rainwater catchment ponds in their localities.

I am only suggest. Whether people, especially those in positions of power, will listen to their suggestions is beyond my control. What is certainly within our collective control are the ways by which we can prevent flooding.

Little ray of hope

The laws are in place. Republic Act No. 6716, dated March 1989, mandated the conversion of 180,000 swamplands and lowlands in every barangay all throughout the country within two years, i.e. until 1991. In 1991, this power was devolved to local governments (Republic Act No. 7160, Local Government Code).

Of course, like many of the laws in this country, it has not been complied in the midst of non-compliance.

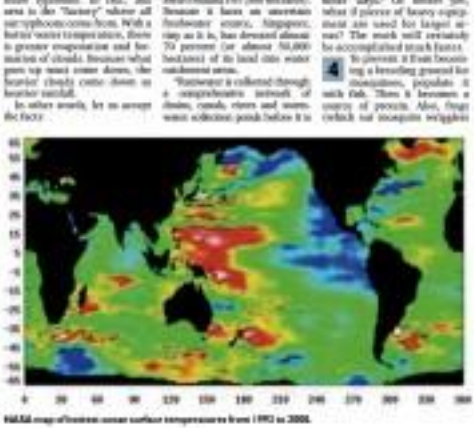
In the aftermath of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" (Sept 26, 2009), a group of citizens filed the first writ of kalikasan in the Supreme Court in April 2010. As a result, the Department of Finance and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) entered into a memorandum of agreement to implement the Rainwater Collector Law. This has been submitted in the Supreme Court for approval as a matter of course. (Pending agreement: Consent in the Environmental Rules of Court as a "consent decree").

A matter on the present presidents in place.

- The DPWH is now headed by a man who, in his private sector days with a water company, was responsible for putting up a huge rainwater collector in the San Dionisio, supposedly the size of a seven-storey building. No wonder the San does not flood.
- The DILG is now headed by a former multinational mayor of a region (boundary violation) and a governor. He understands only too well the meaning of retention and adaptation.
- The Department of Agriculture is now headed by a known organic farming advocate. He has long preached what he now preaches. The areas around the rainwater catchment ponds may well become showcases for artificial organic) gardens that grow edible plants.
- The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is headed by an action-oriented environmental lawyer who knows what he is doing. He can very well stock the rainwater catchment ponds with appropriate indigenous aquatic life.
- The presidential advisers on environment and on climate change, and the one chair of the Climate Change Commission are all sincere and brilliant advocates who understand the benefits of rainwater catchment ponds.
- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through its Mines and Geosciences Bureau, can pinpoint vulnerable lands (but can be restored into wetlands or rainwater catchment reservoirs.
- The Department of Budget is now headed by a man from a group of citizens: Boo the flow writ of kalikasan in the Supreme Court in April 2010. As a result, the Department of Finance and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) entered into a memorandum of agreement to implement the Rainwater Collector Law. This has been

TONY Oposa points at plants like "lumpiang" (swamp cabbage), tubli and sea species of weeds that grow in a U-sty on pond on his 7,000-sq-m vacant lot in a subdivision south of Manila.

A FLOOD-PRONE area is now a paradise like School of the SEA in Cebu.



NASA map of hottest ocean surface temperatures from 1993 to 2008.

Tony Oposa Jr., an environmental lawyer, is a 2009 Ramon Magsaysay awardee. (He many Filipinos, he is frustrated by the recurring floods and the devastation they bring. It illustrates the simple principle he advocates, he solved flooding in his place in Barangay Talisay, Cebu, called the *School of the SEA (Save and Earth Advocates)*, by providing a pond (the excess rainwater to offset and settle. He also illustrates the principle in a small pond on a vacant lot in front of his house south of Manila.)

INQUIRER Mindanao

A 500-kW power plant in Cagayan de Oro City that is being run by the Cagayan Electric Power and Light Co. Inc. (Cepalco) and is capable of producing 1 megawatt of electricity

Green energy offers hope to Mindanao

By BenCyrus G. Ellorin
Contributor

THE APPROVAL of the feed-in tariff (FIT) for renewable energy may mean big for power-deficient Mindanao.

Cagayan Electric Power and Light Co. (Cepalco), the country's biggest producer of solar energy, has remained bullish that with the right government support, 300-150 megawatts (MW) of clean solar energy can be online in the next three years, with the first 20-MW plant ready to supply the grid in less than a year.

Civil society organizations are also calling on the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to mobilize funding for this solar project and the rehabilitation of the hydroelectric plants of Mindanao from the Clean Technology Fund (CTF).

Cepalco, which operates the lone on-grid solar power plant with an installed capacity of 1 MW, plans to build solar power facilities capable of generating 40 MW in northern Mindanao, with the first half available in 2013 if it finds government support sufficient to sustain growth in the long term.

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) on July 27 released after years of work the FIT for renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, run-of-river hydro, biomass and ocean.

Nordicsol

The FIT is one of the unutilized incentives provided by the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 (Republic Act No. 9513), which guarantees payment of fixed tariff for renewable energy generation over a mandated period.

Cecilio Sotto-ay Cepalco senior manager in-charge of the company's solar development program, says that if there will be a "mindset of opportunity, we shall commission the first 20-MW within 2013 to help address the supply shortage in the Mindanao grid."

We, however, add that the firm is still studying the ERC rules to see if the approved FIT for solar, which is at 59.40 per kilowatt-hour, will be economically and financially feasible in the long term.

"Ideally, the FIT must be able to sustain the development of the solar industry in the country. With the current FIT based on a temporary 'oversupply' situation, succeeding projects will no longer be feasible when the solar power market has recovered," Sotto-ay says.

Cepalco is advocating for the installation of solar power plants to complement Mindanao's hydropower capacities, especially during the prolonged dry season, to avoid plans near the biggest among developing countries when it opened in 2009. Since then, many countries, like Thailand, have built bigger on-grid solar power plants.

Stalled projects

"There are investors who are interested to pursue solar power projects in Mindanao but got stalled due to the absence of concrete government support for these initiatives," Sotto-ay says.

Advocates of renewable energy are also calling on the opportunities opened by the renewable energy FIT.

Akuppet Kilusa (AK), a national civil society coalition, sees the rules as a game changer and is calling on the ADB, which is in the process of approving a $500-million loan to the DOE under its CTF, to support the founding needs of Cepalco's solar initiatives.

Renewable energy supporters have been criticizing the DOE's plan to use the CTF loan for electric bicycles (e-bikes), which, they suspect, is being used as a political leverage for the 2013 election.

They criticize the design of the CTF loan-funded project to distribute more than 200,000 e-bikes in the country as ill-advised. Although e-bikes are cleaner compared to gasoline-fed bicycles, recharging the batteries of these vehicles may entail additional base load demand which may come from fossil fuel generation, like new coal power plants.

Elpidio Peña, AK lead convenor and CTF observer for the Asia Pacific, says the ADB can avoid being dragged into the controversy if it invests the loan in actual renewable energy projects and helps Mindanao overcome its power problems.

Power supply, not e-trikes

The problem is power supply, not tricycles, says Bol Covarrubias of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities. His group has pioneered the franchising of electric jeepneys in Malasi City.

National Renewable Energy Board chair Fmr Mendoza Jr. says the approved of the FIT mechanism should encourage investors in renewable energy. It has initially targeted 760 MW of new renewable energy power projects.

Mendoza allays fears that the FIT would result in increased power rates, saying that in the medium- to long term, the initial cost on FIT will be small compared to fossil fuel like coal.

Prices of coal and other fossil fuels, he says, have consistently increased over the years, while those of renewable energy products, although relatively higher now, "will reach grid parity in seven to eight years or the price of renewable energy will equal with fossil fuel-based generation."

"FIT allowance will be paid only for the first seven years totaling P1.6 billion, but thereafter, renewable energy will contribute to lower grid rate amounting to P 0.5 billion over 13 years," Mendoza explains.

Best alternative

Initial estimates that solar energy is the best alternative to the urgent energy needs of Mindanao as it can be installed in the shortest time possible.

Aside from channeling financing for solar energy to Mindanao, AK also recommends the reprogramming of the ADB's CTF loan to support the rehabilitation of the Agus-Pulangi hydroelectric plant and provide seed capital of Mindanao Power Co. (MPC), which is envisioned to take over the management of the Agus-Pulangi hydroelectric plants, the backbone of the island's energy generation. It produces more than half of Mindanao's power needs.

The Mindanao Development Authority is hunting for the establishment of MPC and the rehabilitation of the Agus-Pulangi facilities to provide much-needed reserves in the electricity-starved grid.

The Mindanao grid is currently pressed by very low reserves. Studies have indicated that by 2014, it will have a total power shortage of 250 MW.

"There are investors who are interested to pursue solar power projects in Mindanao..."

Answer to rising power costs seen in sunlight

CASINO

A SECTRET lawmaker is continuing to push for approval of a bill that seeks to install thousands of solar panels in houses to help consumers reduce their electricity expenses.

Bryan Maxie Rey Teddy Casiño, in a statement, said House Bill No. 6043 could be the answer to continuing increases in power rates.

The country's biggest distributor of electricity, Manila Electric Co., is seeking to collect 20 centavos more per kilowatt-hour from consumers starting this month.

In a statement, Casiño said all that Congress has to do is pass HB 6043, or the proposed One Million Solar Roofs Act, to help consumers fight continuing increases in power rates.

The bill seeks to provide incentives and financing to allow electricity consumers like residences, offices and small- to medium-scale enterprises to install solar panels in their homes, offices or small factories.

The bill would allow homeowners and entrepreneurs to take out loans from Pag-Ibig, Government Service Insurance System, Social Security System and other financial institutions to purchase solar panels and pay back the loan out of the amount of savings they incur from using solar power.

"With the peaking up of more solar power roofs, power demand from traditional sources would drop and thus would start likely push rates down," Casiño said in a statement e-mailed to the bureau.

"Our bill also allows those solar-powered households and small firms to feed to their unused power to the grid during peak midday hours at a cost cheaper than existing diesel plants," Casiño said.

"In the National Capital Region, where peaking plants sell power (to) as high as P28 per kilowatt-hour while solar can cost half of that," Casiño added.

He said the amount sold by the solar power producers can be offset from their monthly electricity bills through a net metering mechanism proposed in the bill.

"This way, we hit three birds with one stone—we build additional supply of power, liberate ourselves from expensive, dirty and imported fossil fuels and develop the local renewable energy industry," said Casiño.

"It is really the way to go," he said.

Casiño said the government "should think any of the box and go beyond the big developer mentality in dealing with the power crisis."

Solar power technology must allow electricity consumers to be producers themselves, he said.

"Solar technology can be an immediate and sustainable way to deal with the country's energy problems, especially with the abundance of solar energy throughout the country and the modular nature of solar energy systems," Casiño added.

Republic of the Philippines
HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATED SALE (BEST OFFER)

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) invites interested buyers to submit proposals for the purchase of the properties described below on a cash/spot sale or joint venture agreement (JVA):

Project	Location	Property Description
Bonanhomes	Brgy. Cabanatan, Lapu City	A 37,820-sqm. property consisting of three (3) lots
Hacienda Valley	Brgy. Pinutol, Dinalupihan, Bataan	A 77,859-sqm. property consisting of 235 lots and 30 houses and lots in various stages of development

1. The disposition of the properties shall be on an "AS IS WHERE IS" basis under the following terms and conditions:
   - For outright sale proposals, terms of payment may be in cash or installment basis; and
   - For JVA, the proposed terms and conditions must be indicative.
2. All interested buyers must meet the Eligibility Requirements (ER) of HGC.
3. All interested buyers are required to inspect the said properties before tendering their offers.
4. For purchase proposals under installment sale or JVA, the proposal shall specifically indicate the proposed business plan for each of the properties.
5. Details of the properties as well as the guidelines for the negotiated sale can be obtained from the HGC Asset Management Department (AMD) office located at the 4th Floor of Jade Building, 330 Gen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per project.
6. The EOI and Financial Proposals shall be sealed and dropped at the designated drop boxes located at the AMD office.
7. Schedule of activities:

ACTIVITIES	BONANHOMES	HACIENDA VALLEY
a. Issuance of Sales Documents (Instructions to Prospective Buyers, EOI, and Property Profile)	August (1st to September 1, 2012	
b. Pre-Negotiation Conference	September 6, 2012 (Thursday, 10:00 a.m.)	September 6, 2012 (Thursday, 2:00 p.m.)
c. Deadline for Submission of EOI and Financial Proposals	September 12, 2012 (Thursday, 10:00 a.m.)	September 13, 2012 (Thursday, 2:00 p.m.)

8. Interested buyers are advised to check the titles for liens and encumbrances and the condition and status of the properties.
9. The submission of proposals shall not bind the Corporation to award the sale of the properties to the parties concerned.

For inquiries, please call our Asset Management Department at telephone numbers 896-0435 and 897-3145 or visit our office at the 4th Floor Jade Building, 330 Gen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Contact persons:
- Bonanhomes Project — Engr. Jonathan Briones
- Hacienda Valley Project — Mr. Erwin Vea

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY PROPOSALS, OR TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH PROPOSALS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

Engr. CONRADO G. DOMINGUEZ
Acting Executive Vice President

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

9 allegedly smuggled Korean cars seized in Cebu

By Chito Aragon
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—The Bureau of Customs in Cebu on Thursday seized nine sport utility vehicles from a repair shop owned by a Korean on suspicion that these were smuggled.

Jung Choi-myung, owner of Seoul Golden Motor Care at the North Reclamation Area in Barangay Mabolo, Cebu City, didn't stop customs officials when they seized the vehicles during the raid on his repair shop at 2 p.m.

Jung, who remained inside his office during the raid, allegedly told his employees to allow the customs officials to take what they wanted, said shop supervisor Charlie Simon.

The seized vehicles—four Kia Sorentos, one Hyundai Santa Fe, a Hyundai Tucson, a Kia Sportage and a Ssangyong Rexador—were taken to the Cebu customs district office, according to district collector Ramon Irlandez.

The seized vehicles—four Kia Sorentos, one Hyundai Santa Fe, a Hyundai Tucson, a Kia Sportage and a Ssangyong Rexador—were taken to the Cebu customs district office, according to district collector Ramon Irlandez.

War evacuees told it's safe to go home

COTABATO CITY—Authorities in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) yesterday gave the go-signal for villagers who fled clashes between renegade Moro rebels and soldiers to return to their homes.

The clearance was given although the renegades, members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), continued to launch attacks on military troops.

Members of the BIFF, a group formed by renegade Ameril Umbra Kato, attacked a military detachment in Datu Unsay, Maguindanao, and wounded three soldiers.

But Col. Mastershipe de la Cruz, head of the Army's 1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade, said it was now safe for evacuees to return to their homes.

"We have already driven the rebels deep into the mountains," said he in Cruz.

Mujib Hataman, acting ARMM governor, said a program for the return of the evacuees to their homes was being carried out.

The autonomous government, he said, would continue providing aid to the people until they are able to get back on their feet again.

The ARMM disaster management office said up to 40,000 people had been displaced by the fighting.

Lucita Kirao, ARMM disaster management office head, said "our program has shifted from relief (good) distribution" to sending evacuees home.

The military said it considered to treat members of the BIFF even as evacuees were being asked to return to their homes.

Col. Ptolemeo Aita, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the main hunt for the BIFF members was more difficult because some of the renegades were being coddled by relatives in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"Many of them are from there. We know that some are now hiding in the camps of the MILF," said Aita.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF chief peace negotiator, said he would neither confirm nor deny Aita's statement.

He said, however, that the MILF continued to keep the door open for the BIFF members who want to return to the MILF fold.

"They can go back to us anytime," said Iqbal of Kato's followers.

Aita said the military was coordinating with village officials to isolate the BIFF members who hid their weapons and were hiding among evacuees.

"It would be difficult for us to quickly identify them," said Aita. "That's the reason we are doing this with village officials," he said.

"We want the village chiefs to point to us one by one the real evacuees and those that are not," said Aita. *Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Simon*

A WOMAN evacuee appears worried after she and her children were forced to evacuate as government soldiers and renegade Moro rebels clash in two communities in Maguindanao. *JOEY CALIMBAN AND AFP PHOTO*

Groups dare Robredo to dismantle Sulu militia

JOLO CITY—Civil society groups challenged Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo to dismantle a Sulu militia that the groups said had become a private army of the province's governor, Abdusakur Tan.

The Free Goods Talents Movement, named after a human rights activist charged with illegal detention and attempted arson attempt on Tan, said Robredo should not meddle the Civilian Emergency Force (CEF), a Sulu militia that the group said had become Tan's private army.

In a text message, Robredo said it was beyond his authority to act on the CEF since it was under the jurisdiction of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The CEF is composed of former members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) that operates in 19 Sulu towns.

Tan had insisted that CEF was legal and helped keep peace in Sulu "while the police and military are busy running after local terrorists."

In a statement signed by 23 civil society group representatives, the Free Goods Talents Movement said Tan-led groups now dominate Task CEF on the basis of a Supreme Court decision that sanctioned its legality.

Tan's order to the officials of ARMM to act against the CEF, which they said, was liable for human rights violations in Sulu.

The civil society groups continued to defend Talantin, former Jolo councilor, and said he was innocent of charges that he was involved in attempts to have Tan killed.

Talantin, a Tan critic and human rights activist, was arrested last year following bomb explosions that targeted the governor.

Gwendoline Lucero-Luci and Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Koreans in PH: 2 dead in Angeles City, 5 arrested in Cebu

By Jun Pinlac
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT ZONE—Two Koreans were found dead, both apparent suicides, this week here and in Angeles City, police said.

Kim Sung-hee, 27, fell from the fifth floor of a four-star hotel here early on Wednesday and on Friday fire investigators are trying to determine whether Kim committed suicide or was pushed from his fifth-floor room at the Hotel Vida on Mt. 6, Roxas Highway here. There were no witnesses to Kim's fall.

Kim's husband, Kwonghee Lee, 35, told investigators that his wife had previously attempted to end her life in South Korea by slashing her left wrist.

But police did not find any suicide note in the room where the couple was staying.

Chanel-circuit television footage showed Kwonghee dragging Kim outside their room at 12:50 a.m., according to a report of Chief Insp. Leonilo Tan of Angeles City Police Station 6.

Kwonghee later asked the hotel's front desk at 1 a.m. to locate his wife.

A security guard checked the hotel's east section and found the security injured Kim on the ground. A Philippine Air Force ambulance rushed Kim to an Angeles City hospital where she died hours later.

On Monday, another Korean was found dead inside his hotel room in Mabalacat village in Angeles City. Police said Hyunjoon Kwon, 37, a resident of Diamond Subdivision in Balibago village in the city, apparently committed suicide by drinking a lethal chloride solution. A same notation in Korean was also found in the room.

Hyunjoon checked in at the hotel at 8:45 a.m. and had requested the front desk to give him a wake-up call at 1 p.m. and again at 5 p.m.

The hotel's front desk clerk told the police that the Korean answered the phone call at 1 p.m. but he did not respond to calls at 5 p.m., prompting the hotel staff to check up on him.

In Cebu, police on Thursday arrested five Koreans for their alleged involvement in online illegal gambling in Lapu-Lapu City.

Arrested during a raid on a house in a subdivision in the city were Steve Lee, also known as Park Sung-woo, 32; Jeong Jong-ho, 42; Park In-gyu, 30; Ahn Ji-woon, 32; and Kang Jae-wook, 30.

Chief Insp. George Thaens, who heads the regional special operations group of the police regional intelligence division, said Lee was the subject of a search warrant issued by a local judge.

Operating the four other Koreans were arrested after they were caught operating the computer units allegedly used in the online gambling operation, Thaens said. *With a report from Chito Aragon, Inquirer Visayas*

Lucena gets 2 classrooms from group of traders

ASSMEX Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Jessie Dellosa said on Friday that he remained convinced that hard work and decent education would be the country's ticket to peace and progress.

Dellosa made the statement as guest of honor at a turnover ceremony in Lucena City by two chapters—headed by Dr. and Mrs. Alfonso Ong and the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCII) in Southern Tagalog headed by its regional executive director, Dr. Roberto C. Lirag Jr.

Dellosa recalled the hardships that he went through just to get a good education. He is the second eldest among 11 siblings.

"I used to walk 4 kilometers from the camp to go to school," Dellosa told an audience of school officials, teachers, students, parents and city officials during the turnover ceremony.

Although my father was a soldier, I had no plans of being a soldier myself at first, but it is destiny and fate that I am now chief of staff," he said.

"Education ensures that children will become useful members of the community," said Dellosa.

Lirag said the FFCCCII "will continue working with the national and local government to undertake projects to uplift the community."

Lirag is a noted philanthropist, businessman and educator in Lucena. He was given the Cardona Alliance Operation Award during the Annual Forum of the Philippine 71st Anniversary.

AFP CHIEF Gen. Jessie Dellosa (center) and Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. directors Dr. Roberto C. Lirag Sr. and Enrique T. Ona. Lirag's son Nelson, along with Lucena City Mayor Barbara Ruby C. Talaga, pose with a "turnover document" for two classrooms donated to West Dist. Lucena Elementary School. *CONTRIBUTOR PHOTO*

10 model citizens get Quezon gov't awards

LUCENA CITY—Two top military officers and an agriculture official were among the 10 recipients of this year's "Quezon Huwaran ng Kamagalan" (QMK) award bestowed to model citizens of Quezon province.

The military awardees were Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Jessie Dellosa and Brig. Gen. Nestor Aseniero.

The eight other awardees were Agriculture Undersecretary Leonardo Montemayor, Rhodora Fernandez, Judge Rodolfo Ofiaman Jr., George Tapan, Msgr. Ramon Tinsay, Renato Maza, Manuel Mendoza Jr. and Buenaventura Luces.

"The award is a manifestation that their hard work to help sustain peace and bring development to various communities in Quezon province is being recognized," said Maj. Gen. Eduardo del Rosario, commander of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command based here in Camp Nakar.

The QMK is an award given by the provincial government to its outstanding citizens for their achievements and contributions to the welfare and development of the province.

The provincial government also receives a proclamation letter to Col. Cinderella Magallanes.

The awarding is in line with the 134th birth anniversary of the late President Manuel L. Quezon on Aug. 19. The awarding ceremony was held on Friday at Quezon Convention Center.

One of the top awardees, Dellosa, is a native of Sariaya but his family migrated to Quezon when his father, also a soldier, was assigned to the province during the time of the Huks.

The list of award recipients shows the different fields of expertise that the awardees are known for and through which they have given honors to the province. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

GMA lawyers to meet with docs on next legal move

By Christian V. Esguerra

FORMER President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is not immediately jumping at the opportunity to get out of the country despite her doctor's findings that her condition is life-threatening and that she needs to seek immediate medical attention abroad.

Senior Attorney Lourdes Sison, in Suarez yesterday said Arroyo had not yet instructed her lawyers to ask the courts to lift the hold departure order on her so she could travel to the United States and Austria for medical treatment.

Suarez said Arroyo's lawyers were ready to meet with her doctors to discuss her next legal move. Arroyo is facing charges of electoral sabotage in a Pasay regional trial court and plunder and graft cases in Quezon City and Sandiganbayan.

Dr. Roberto Anastacio, a cardiologist at the Makati Medical Center, told reporters on Friday that he recommended that Arroyo seek treatment in the United States and Austria where they are used to handling cases with repeated surgeries.

Arroyo has undergone surgery three times for an ailment of the bone in the neck.

"We know the (legal) procedure but there is no mandatory order yet to (ask) for a travel clearance from the court," said Suarez, who phoned the reporters soon after discussing the matter with Arroyo, now a Pampanga representative.

Political repercussions

Suarez warned of political repercussions if Arroyo died because she remained barred from seeking medical treatment abroad.

"It would be a disaster if something happens to her; a disaster for the administration because as far as the population is concerned, they don't believe it's the court (that doesn't want her to leave)—they believe it's the Palace," Suarez said in Filipino.

"Whether we like it or not, the sentiment of the people will be that she was neglected," he added.

Stopped from leaving

The government stopped a scheduled board Arroyo at Ninoy Aquino International Airport in November last year as she was about to board a flight for Singapore, but then stepped in search for foreign medical treatment.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima drafted a temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court that, in effect, allowed Arroyo travel because no charges had been filed against her at the time.

The Department of Justice and the Commission on Elections stalled the investigation of electoral sabotage charges against Arroyo and filed the case in the Pasay City Regional Trial Court. Judge Jesus Mupas of the court's 112th branch promptly ordered Arroyo arrested in late July, however, Mupas ordered Arroyo temporarily released from detention on P1-million bail, an indication, her lawyers said, that the government's case was weak.

She won't escape

Suarez reiterated that Arroyo had committed to face the charges against her.

"She will not run away," he said. "She will always respect the court."

The MWSS's frustrations mounted on Friday when Arroyo had "no choice" but to have surgery devised to correct the shifting titanium plates implanted in the bone of her neck.

Anastacio said the condition had become "progressive and aggressive" and could be addressed only by a team of experts currently not available in the Philippines.

Senate resolution

Suarez said he would file a resolution in the Senate this week in support of Arroyo. He said she should be allowed to go for "humanitarian reasons."

"There's no debate anymore...she's been operated on three times (here)," he said, adding that none of the procedures was successful.

Suarez said he would seek signatures for the resolution both from the minority and majority members of the House.

WHY HE WENT TO CEBU Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo is all smiles as he receives a token of appreciation from Police Director Samuel Pagdilao, head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Saturday afternoon after delivering an inspirational message to the Community Investigative Support Personnel Summit in Cebu International Convention Center. Robredo presented to Naga City his hometown, but his plane crashed at sea off Masbate yesterday afternoon.

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo giving a briefing recently to the media in Malacañang in this file photo.

GET SET, READY GO The Red Cross prepares equipment needed for their mission.

Robredo plane crashes; AFP, PNP, Red Cross, US join search, rescue

A LONELY STRETCH Members of the Red Cross team conduct search and rescue operations near the shores of Masbate.

Weather forecasting in PH enters 21st century

By Doris Z. Pazzibugan

MANILA – Forecasting in the Philippines has finally entered the 21st century.

Scientists at the University of the Philippines Los Baños have pooled expertise by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to set up in a span of a few months sophisticated weather monitoring systems not available to the country's weather bureau during the catastrophic of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in September 2009.

"We have developed seven tools for Pagasa's (Philippine atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration) use to make their forecast more timely accurate and reach many people," Carlos Primo "CP" David of the UP National Institute of Geological Sciences (NIGS) said in a morning radio forum on effects and experience on Tuesday.

"These will make forecasting [and] predicting rainfall more high-tech. Those will bring forecasting into the 21st century," David said.

The new weather reading tools are part of the DOST's Project Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards (Noah) which was officially launched only last month to augment Pagasa's capability.

The new automated rainfall and flood prediction systems enabled Pagasa and Project Noah to give accurate forecasts and timely warnings during the monsoon southwest monsoon rains two weeks ago that flooded large areas of Metro Manila and surrounding provinces.

As Marikina has shown, the concept works, Filipino technology results. He have given accurate and timely warnings during the monsoon rains two weeks ago that flooded large areas of Metro Manila and surrounding provinces.

"As Marikina has shown, the concept works. Filipino technology results. We have given accurate and timely warnings during the monsoon rains two weeks ago that flooded large areas of Metro Manila and surrounding provinces.

He was referring to the sudden burst of heavy rain in the late evening of Aug. 4 that again flooded the Marikina River.

It had actually been raining since the start of the week but since the waters of the river had gone down that day, flood-weary residents had returned to their homes by the evening of Aug. 4.

"We knew the floods were coming in the middle of the night," said Project Noah executive director Mahar Lagmay of UP-NIGS.

Dr. Lagmay, who heads the flood hazard mapping component of Project Noah, was among the first to be alerted to the sudden torrential rainfall that occurred in Montalban, Rizal province, at around 11:00 p.m. on Aug. 3.

"Because of our rain gauge, we were able to see rainfall of 75 mm in an hour, and 400 mm in the next hour," Dr. Lagmay said. A 15 mm rainfall per hour is already considered heavy downpour.

"It was as measured rainfall, like filling this room with 3 inches of rain in just one hour," he added.

The water level at the Montalban Station was forecast to rise from 23 meters above water level to 27 meters.

The Marikina River, meanwhile, was forecast to rise from 14.7 meters above water level to the critical 20.4 meters in a few hours.

Dr. Lagmay said he was alerted at 12:34 a.m. of Aug. 9 just as he was about to go to sleep.

"After I gave the hazard of heavy discharge from the Montalban gorges, we advised the proper alert to the LGUs (local government units)," he said.

"Surprisingly I was awake at one o'clock in the morning (of Aug. 9)," Science Secretary Mario Montejo recalled.

With a window of a couple of hours to get the residents to safety, the DOST, Pagasa and Project Noah officials alerted disaster management officials and the media.

Montejo clarified the job of calling for an evacuation falls on disaster management and local government officials.

"We forecast a peak water level at Montalban Station at 2:46 a.m. The forecast peak at Marikina River was 20.4 meters above water level at 4:46 a.m.," Montejo recalled.

His forecast was off by an hour. The actual peak at Marikina River was 20.42 meters at 3:40 a.m.

Dr. Lagmay said they were able to make the forecast due to water level sensors that were giving the data online.

"During Ondoy we didn't have automated online water sensors unlike last week. That was thoroughly monitored so we can predict where it will flood," he said.

Luckily, Renigen's team had just recently finished the 10-flood hazard mapping for the Marikina River system using the Lidar (Light Detection And Ranging) system.

The team used Lidar's optical sensor sensing technology ("like a camera") to create a map of the area to forecast where it will flood during typhoons.

"We can say that this amount of rainfall will produce this amount of flooding in your people of impending floods," Noah said.

They started getting the data last March. By May we had a prototype," he added.

He said they will next work on the flood mapping of the Pampanga and Agno river systems using the Lidar equipment to be acquired by the DOST this month.

The equipment will be used to cover a total of 10 flood-vulnerable river systems (including Marikina) since the existing flood maps are inaccurate and outdated.

Montejo said the Agno river flood mapping was spearheaded by foreign technology through expensive foreign grants, "but this time we have Filipino scientists to do it."

"It is local research and development and Filipino-ingenuity at work," he said.

Project Noah works accurately, laugh at clouds, sing in the rain

Front page (L)

David, one of the project leaders of Noah, which stands for Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards.

"And if rainfall is not random, then we should be able to predict it... by looking at the indicators, trends, and so on and so forth," he said [between] solitary, expensive, and colorcasts on Tuesday night.

Through Project Noah, a two-year public-private venture, and its rain-forecasting tool, the "Ultimate Experiment," David boasts of a 90-percent success rate in predicting rainfall in specific areas of the country.

ACTUAL SIGHTS. The rainfall map seen from systems illustration of the website of Project Noah looks crazy but like a continuing mass but is actually a big help to the public by showing where's rain will likely fall and how heavy then it could be traced on color codes.

Website

Since its launch in July, the Noah website (noah.dost.gov.ph) has been giving the public the unique chance to access data taken from the weather bureau's Doppler radars, satellite imagery, rain and stream gauges, and other monitoring tools in real or near-real time.

The grand objective is to improve rain and flood forecasting through speedier and more accurate reporting and dissemination of weather information.

By integrating Noah's rainfall prediction features, Filipinos can tell if rain will fall over certain towns or cities in the next hour, and even in the second, third or fourth hour. Other tools will show water levels in major river systems and those can alert disaster communities to potential flash floods.

90-percent accuracy

"Every day we look at our accuracy and I can tell you that when we say there's rain, the accuracy is on the basis 90 per cent," David said.

But what about the 10 percent?

"That's God changing the settings," joked Dr. CP and Harvard-educated geologist, who is the son of business columnist and UP professor Randy David.

"Sometimes, you can see a rain cloud from Doppler data, [so] you project it will rain. Then for some reason, God will move the cloud," he said.

"If in Noah we predict 30 percent, that's God already. All of us know it's going to be a sunny day, then suddenly it rains, the[warning] one statistic off," David said.

Inexact science

The last of the names is, David said, meteorology is an inexact science discipline, unlike pure sciences such as physics and chemistry.

"My personal level is 95 percent," David said. "That's the limit, meaning whether all indicators say from four sources—radar, satellites, statistics, rain gauges—in all sense, all point to the forecast, it will most probably be raining," he said.

But it is also important to explain to the public, especially to those vulnerable with the concept of probability, what Project Noah actually means by its forecasts, David said.

"If we say 80 percent chance of rain, there is still a 20 percent chance that it will not rain. It just means eight out of 10 times, it will rain. But don't blame me if it doesn't. Don't say, 'Hey you said 80 percent, that's more than 50. But it didn't rain.' That's the 20 percent," he said.

"Meteorology is really like that. There is a margin of error. We need to teach that to the public," David said.

Too technical?

Noah's executive director, Al Jorda Mahar Lagmay, also from UP's National Institute of Geological Sciences, requested significant strides in the system's efforts to reach and educate more people about the warning system.

"We receive about five-to-six queries per second [on the website], and sometimes, it was bad gateway because there are too many requests, but we're trying to improve that by getting as many host servers as possible," he said.

Lagmay also dealt with criticism that Noah's website is too technical and hard to understand for the ordinary Internet user.

"Sure, you're making information available to the public, but it takes a while for the mind to process ... first that's also what they said about computers," he said. "They said, or IBM said, they won't be able to sell computers to every household because it's too difficult to use. But now every household has a computer."

At present, Noah uses four Doppler radars of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), as well as 296 weather stations spread out across the Philippines.

Human factor

Lagmay announced plans to add 1,000 more stations with sensors that would send information to Noah's servers either every 10 minutes or 15 minutes, "so that means we're getting near real-time information from all parts of the Philippines."

He said Noah was more accurate in the absence of its use of different sources of data, including satellite sensors, Doppler radars, and ground stations, which he, speaking in Filipino, described as "pinaghalo-halo."

"We need ground verification," he said. "So in any investigation, if you use remotely sensed imagery to explain something on the ground, you always have to have ground validation. Otherwise, it's just an interpretation that anybody can do."

David said the human factor was still quite important in weather forecasting.

"You can't replace human experience, like 20 years of looking at the clouds," he said. "If there's a cloud, there are people who can tell that, 'no, it's not going to rain. They know that but that kind of knowledge can't be replaced by one can combine forecasting experience with automatic tools."

Pagasa reticent

David admitted there was some reticence on the part of Pagasa about Noah's automated computations.

"Pagasa is insisting that the automatic computations 'we make, their people need to validate and to check first," he said. But this, he said, defeats the purpose of forecasting.

"If you really want to be sure, then don't do forecast. Because you will just wait ... to watch the radar system of Pagasa, for real warning [to be raised] in Metro Manila, you'll wait for that moment of rain and then, that's no more a real warning, but the rain is there already," he said.

"When I get the [red warning] message, I'm already stuck. The warning should come before, maybe a few hours before ... Then that's going to be useful. We can already do that," David said.

Still, David acknowledged improvements in Pagasa's outlook.

Not to replace Pagasa

"One thing that's different about Pagasa right now is they're more receptive to changes and technology before, they relied only on manual. So they haven't realized this power is okay," David said.

Noah, he stressed, will not replace Pagasa as the country's weather bureau.

"In fact, Noah was conceived to augment the functions of Pagasa, because by 2014, all of this will be transferred to [them] ... and our objective is to be able to provide weather information directly to the people," he said.

The specified objective, David said, is to make forecasting "a little bit more high-tech."

"We want to bring forecasting of weather, or rainfall in particular, into the 21st century. That's the idea," he said.

Lagmay said local government, especially in Marikina City, now rely on Noah to warn residents of imminent floods.

"Marikina City has officials on standby near the Marikina River to look at the water level in the river. If it reaches a critical point," Lagmay said. "However, the city also has a rear vision where data from Project Noah are accessed."

Lagmay said Marikina has rules that specify different levels of alert depending on the water level in the river. If the water level is 15 inches above sea level, he said, people are put on alert. If it rises to 16 inches, they are told to prepare for evacuation. If the water level rises to 17 meters, people are evacuated, and if it reaches 19 meters, the city government orders forced evacuation.

Mash-of technologies

The technologies that make up Project Noah are a mash of instruments, such as weather satellites and Doppler radars that give information on rain-bearing clouds; all-automatic weather stations, rain gauges and stream gauges that track the weather, amount of rainfall and depth of rivers; and manned ground weather stations that validate the data culled from these technologies.

All of the automated weather stations, stream gauges and rain gauges are locally developed, and they transmit data to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) every 10 to 15 minutes, allowing forecasters to issue timely warnings to specific areas in near-real time.

Data from the instruments and observations are put together on the Noah website, which is open to all Internet users.

Easy to learn

The website looks intimidating at first but it can be easily learned and, with practice, users will soon find it easy to navigate.

At one point in his presentation, Lagmay invited on the rainfall contour option on the overview menu and it showed the map of the Philippines with color overlays.

"The rainfall contour map shows us where in the country it rained in the past hour," he said. The colors correspond to different amounts of rainfall: light blue for light to no rain, blue for moderate rain; dark blue for heavy rain; yellow, intense rain; and red, torrential rain.

"If you wake up in the morning and want to know where it has been raining, or if you just want to check which areas are flooded, you can use the rainfall contour map," Lagmay said.

Knowing what the colors stand for, you can avoid flooded places. Or tell whether your place is likely to be inundated within hours. With a report from Norbert R. Mellon

A SIX-MONTH moratorium has been declared for Hong Kong borrowers who were affected by the recent floods.

—Vice President Jejomar Binay

GLOBAL Pinoy

Gina Monica Feria

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

PH students with disabilities blaze trail for Asean

By Abigail Otero

BANGKOK—Seven scholars—six from the Philippines and one from Cambodia—graduated with the degree of Master's in Comparative and International Disability Policy, and made history for being the first batch of students in the world's first virtual graduate degree program of its kind.

At the graduation rites of the UN-based Institute on Disability and Public Policy (IDPP) in Mahidol University in Bangkok, Inchi Hironaka, Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), announced last week that the region of nearly 600 million is committed to taking better care of persons with disabilities as the grouping moves towards one community in three years.

The regional organization has endorsed the IDPP—a new-up-created institute of the Assumption University, which partnered with 13 universities across seven Asean countries with Nippon Foundation as its founder "Asean is aspiring to become a caring and sharing community of nations," Surin said.

"The way in which we care for our people, the weak, the disadvantaged, the marginalized, the women, the children, the may in which we treat them, shall be the measure of our own achievement as a community of caring and sharing societies ... Asean Data not forgotten. I do commit to you all welfare, to your well-being," he added.

All over the world, the UN estimates 15 percent or one billion of the world's population live with disability, 80 million of which reside in Asean.

Dr. Virasakdi Chongsuvivatwong, vice president for International Relations of Mahidol University, said the IDPP initiative will allow people with disability to integrate across cultures, which will ensure they won't be left behind when Asean integrates in 2015. "This is in the forefront of the Asean message, as we aspire to be one community."

Asean commitment

In November last year, Asean declared 2013 to 2020 as the Asean Decade for Persons with Disability.

And it cut off at Asean's 10 member countries have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, IDPP executive director Jhevich Cagbum said the idea behind the program is to produce leaders who could influence public policy and monitor the implementation of the protocol in their countries.

Ubi data show only the Philippines, Thailand, Laos, Malaysia and Myanmar have ratified the Convention while Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam have signed it, with Singapore uncertain.

Sociocultural framework

"Asean is the only subregional, intergovernmental body to declare it should be 'persons with disability'" said executive director Akie Hiromitsu of the Asia-Pacific Developmental Centre on Disability, IDPP's program partner.

Hiromitsu said this positioned Asean ideal spot and it can become a model for subregional collaboration in improving the welfare of people with disability.

"Financially-we're not advanced, but spiritually we are more advanced because family system and community identities are very vital. Asean is very unique in this sense because it is because on human development under its third pillar on building a sociocultural community," he said.

Cagburn said this is precisely the reason why transition University chose to focus on the region. "The sociocultural community in Asean provided the core framework for us to think about an education project that will be able to bring cognitive academia and faculty from the region to come together."

Virtual classroom

Transnational collaboration is key in making the virtual classroom work, said John Paul Cruz, one of the graduates, in his student address.

"(The) 'Blackboard' is a virtual room where everybody has a chance or economical unit," he said. "This is very crucial for people with varying degrees of abilities. The good thing and the advantage of blackboard is that it does not require any bias. In the blackboard there are no prejudices. It embraces diversity and it also embraces the capabilities of each student."

Cruz, a freelancer policy researcher in the Philippines, has visual impairment. His classmates—other have the same disability or hearing or mobility impairment.

Cagburn said the students have "broken the ceiling of physical disability and inclusive advocates for billions of individuals with disabilities around the world."

"This program is unique in that it is international in composition—in terms of kinds of students, the partnerships, the instruction involved. This has global potential," added Fr. Jose Cruz, vice president of University and Global Relations of the Ateneo de Manila University, IDPP's partner in the Philippines. Asia News Network

Young undocumented US immigrants willing to take risks on new directive

IMFO
Lourdes Santos Tancinco

PAOLO was only six months old when he arrived in California with his parents. At his father's request, Paolo's parents decided to continue to stay in unlawful status. Paolo grew up in the United States and did not learn about his immigration status until he was 16 years old. When he discovered that he was undocumented, Paolo stopped studying and instead worked, without authorization, as a caregiver for a family friend. In the meantime, Paolo's parents were divorced and Paolo was left in the care of his father Ramon.

After hearing of the Obama administration's "deferred action" initiative for young immigrants, his Uncle Ramon sought legal assistance for Paolo to obtain a proper work permit. On August 15, 2012, Paolo was told that the deferred action was only temporary in nature that would last for only two years. Also, when he applies for deferred action, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services will have access to all his personal information and there is uncertainty whether or not the information will be used against him in the future. Still, Paolo filled up the forms. He is willing to take the risk. With an identification card, he plans to pursue his college education.

Thousands of undocumented young immigrants feel the same way as Paolo.

On the first day of filing for consideration for deferred action, thousands of young immigrants lined up at the offices of various advocacy organizations to attend workshops on "deferred action". The US Citizenship and Immigration Services began accepting requests on August 15, 2012, and it is expected that there would approximately 1.4 million young undocumented students who will file requests for deferred action.

The new initiative

On June 15, 2012, President Obama announced his immigration initiative or deferred action. It goes by the new acronym DACA or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

To be eligible for DACA, an individual should have been under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012, and should have come into the US before reaching his 16th birthday. The Filipino advocate for a more permanent solution (the DREAM Act), Jose Antonio Vargas, an award-winning journalist, is unfortunately disqualified because he turned 31 prior to June 15, 2012. However, those who turned 31 years old after June 15, 2012, are still eligible.

Not for new arrivals

To be considered for DACA, there must also be proof of physical presence in the US for five years prior to June 15, 2012. Those who entered after June 15, 2007, are disqualified. Those who plan to travel and apply for DACA for their children should be aware of this five-year physical presence requirement.

Uncertainty

It is clear based on several pronouncements by the Department of Homeland Security that DACA is not an amnesty or a path to citizenship. There are only two things that a young immigrant may take out of this program: (1) reprieve from deportation and (2) a work permit to employ. Many undocumented students only a temporary fix and if there is a change of administration, there is a possibility the program will be changed or abandoned. Nevertheless, like Paolo, thousands of young immigrants are lining up to take advantage of DACA. They perceived it as a small setback that allows them to live, even on a temporary basis, without fear of deportation, harassment or exploitation and to allow, even a little, the difficulties they face as undocumented immigrants.

(Inquirer may be reached at lmt@manilaimc.com or at 487 7177 or 720 3602)

Agriculture majors excel in Israeli Institute

By Sara Quinsaat

FILIPINO agriculture students from various universities around the Philippines dominated an 11-month intensive agro studies program in Israel, bagging excellence awards for research on improving the quality of produce.

Straight half of this year's agronomist graduates from the Western Institute in Negev are Filipinos, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) reported.

"The Filipino graduates of the program are students from as far as Benet in Cotabato, who are currently taking agriculture courses and were selected through a rigid screening process conducted by their respective university officials," the DFA said.

Philippine graduates also received three of four awards at its seminar/show of four awards at its seminar following the training.

Project-in Israel Yaron Tamir, especially complimented Philippine delegates from the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University in Northern La. con.

The Philippine group encountered contingents from other Asian countries like Cambodia, India, Myanmar and Vietnam in the program, which brought trainees around agricultural facilities and colleges around Israel.

During graduation ceremonies on Aug. 1, two Filipino trainees were recognized for outstanding research: Ira Albert Tubig, Mary Jeanne and Modesto Jay Domingo received commendations for their research on fungal diseases in bananas while Gabriel Sendianan, Reynan Simones, Gwen Pareja, Cris Malic Jr., Jerry Batiggan and Patrick de la Cruz also won an award for hosting at the effects of hot water treatment on growing gumpaboak.

Filipino students Ariel Cardinez, Erly Subeq and Ramil Illanan were also recognized for extracurricular activities related to their training.

In his message during the graduation rites, Philippine Ambassador to Israel Eneenio D.G. Crisanto encouraged the graduates "to put dignity back in farming and to be proud of what they have accomplished."

Another batch of trainees from the Philippines is set to arrive in Israel in October.

Employers of runaway OFWs blacklisted

By Susan K.

LABOR Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz has issued an order banning the deployment of domestic workers to countries where whose workers have run away due to abuse. If there are reports that an employer is abusive, he or she should not be able to hire Filipino workers again, the labor chief said.

This is a commendable move of the Department of Labor and Employment for Filipino workers who have difficulties fighting for their rights overseas. OFWs often escape from their employers because they cannot endure the maltreatment they experience. Some report that they are not allowed, not paid their salaries, subjected to verbal and sexual abuse, etc.

But blacklisted employers find ways to get around this ban. If parents are blacklisted, some use the names of their children or their friends to again hire Filipino workers.

OFWs themselves can help in this problem. They can share information on abusive employers. They should also not be afraid and hesitant to notify Philippine embassy and consulate officials about blacklisted employers who have managed to again hire Filipino workers.

Withdrawal fee?

Ms. Cristina Pineda applied with P&R Manpower Services Incorporated as a household service worker in Hong Kong. Albeit the agency asked her for a fee of P15,000, she decided to back out. But according to her, the recruitment agency insisted she fork over P15,000 to reclaim her passport.

Alice Cristina brought her complaint to Radyo Inquirer. Secretary DOLE subsequently suspended P&R Manpower Services Inc.'s agency. Under the law, OFWs and applicants who wish to claim their passports from their respective agencies should not be asked for any "withdrawal fee."

P&R Manpower Services denied it had asked Cristina for a withdrawal fee. The agency also told us to advise Cristina to return to their office to collect her passport. On June 24, 2012, she was able to retrieve her passport without any fee.

Susan Ariño, aka Susan K. is on board at Radyo Inquirer 990 AM, Monday to Friday 12:30-2:00 p.m. with audio/video live streaming www.dzIq.ph. (Hotline: 535-7288/661-0425/6026. Cell: 0920.9778.118; email: susan.kwan@yahoo.com; Barangay Ayala Alabang Village.

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Blind architect keeps building 'inclusive society' for PWDs

By Margaux C. Ortiz
Contributor

A LOT still has to be done in the country for people with disabilities (PWDs), but architect Jaime Silva is thankful for small victories.

Over the past 10 years, for example, he has been giving lectures to shopping mall "front-liners"—the security guards and "ticket-booking personnel"—on how they can help build a more inclusive society for PWDs.

He remains on target in his advocacy, despite being blind himself. Silva lost his vision 18 years ago.

One such victory, according to Silva, took place when he

Sun Business forms partnership with JCI Manila

Sun Business and JCI Manila confirm partnership last July 17, 2012 at the Manila Hotel Champagne Room. Above photo shows (from left to right) Sun Cellular AVP Corinna Porte-Zaldan, Marketing Manager Wesley Lopez, JCI Manila President Rodney Dizon, and EVP Treasurer Carlo Villegas.

Sun Business, the corporate arm of Sun Cellular, officially established a strategic partnership with Junior Chambers International (JCI) Manila last July 17, 2012 at the Manila Hotel.

The partnership is part of Sun Business' Sun Partner Program, aiming to provide efficient communication solutions to JCI Manila, its members and affiliates. "It is our privilege to work hand-in-hand with an organization as noble as JCI Manila. We will ensure that Sun Business' services will enable young Jaycees to become productive and empowered members of society," says Corinna Zaldan, AVP of Sun Cellular. "We look forward to working with JCI Manila on their projects and collaborating with them on business solutions products to help boost and strengthen their business," she adds.

Founded in 1947, JCI Manila was formed to develop and enhance the leadership skills of young Filipino men. Many of the most prolific men in both the government and private sectors enjoy membership in the organization.

Offering various corporate solutions, Sun Business provides companies – both large and small – a wide range of innovative products and services designed to address specific communication needs.

For more information on Sun Business' suite of business solutions, log on to Sun Business' website, http://sunbusiness.com.ph/, or call 395-8PRO (776). You can also check for updates by logging on to Sun Cellular's official Facebook page: facebook.com/suncellularph or on Twitter: twitter.com/suncellularnews.

Sun Cellular is a member of the PLDT Group.

WATCHING THE WATCHERS Justice Secretary Leila de Lima gets thrilled sight photos at the entrance of the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City on Saturday, where she conducted an inspection, including a check of the security cameras (above), following last week's brief disappearance of inmate Leonel C. Rotilla Go.

PHOTOS BY RICHARD ROYO

Gruesome find in 2 cities: 4 boxes, 4 bodies

By Nancy C. Carvajal and Julie M. Aurelio

LUCENA: Finds came in four boxes in two cities early Saturday.

The bodies of two women stuffed in separate boxes were found a few meters from each other in a neighborhood in Marikina, while a man and a woman also placed in boxes were found dead in a garbage pile in Quezon City.

In Marikina, the boxes were found on Bonanza Street, Sumulong, at around 12:30 a.m., according to the head of the city police homicide section, Chief Insp. Joselito de Guzman.

Guzman identified one of the victims as Shiela Barcelon, 34, a tricycle driver and resident of Sitio Bacoor, Sabang in Cainta.

She was last seen alive by her daughter Jacqueline at around 3 p.m. Friday before she left their house to serve a friend on Tomas Morato, Quezon City, the officer said, quoting the victim's relatives.

The other slain woman found in Marikina remained unidentified as of late Saturday. She was described to be between 35 and 40 years old, 5'3" tall, with short hair and fair complexion.

Both victims appeared to have been strangled, Guzman said.

In Quezon City, a seemingly related discovery was made on San Jose Street in Barangay San Antonio at around 6 a.m. Saturday.

The bodies of a man and a woman believed to be victims of summary executions were found also stuffed in boxes dumped near a pile of trash. They remained unidentified and, like those found in Marikina, bore strangling marks.

Dismembering police station commander Supt. Dedo's Sandhol said the two bodies were bound with rubber rope.

Wads of newspaper covers were also found in the victims' pockets and the box containing the woman's body had a piece of paper with the word "bastol" written on it, Sandhol noted.

The woman was described to be between 25 and 40 years old, 5'1" in height, has skinned and wearing a red blazer, black shirt and striped shorts.

The man was about the same age, 5'3", has skinned and wears tag a white shirt with blue stripes, jeans and white rubber shoes.

Case investigator SPO1 Jonah de Laguna said a resident noticed a white van parked in front of the garbage pile about four hours before the discovery of the bodies.

The resident initially thought that the van's occupants were just throwing away their trash, Laguna said. But this resident got cautious and reported the sighting to barangay officials, the investigator added.

On Aug. 5, the bodies of two men were also found stuffed inside boxes in Barangay Masambong and Sta. Domingo, also in Quezon City.

Customs chief warns vs Net fraud, BOC poseurs

By Tina G. Santos

THE BUREAU of Customs (BOC) yesterday warned the public anew against fraudulent communication, either through mail or the Internet, as the perpetrators are seen to increase money from unwary victims.

Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon said the people behind the fraud were posing as customs officials.

Biazon said he continued to receive reports from people who got notices from supposed customs officials advising them that their packages were being held and would not be released until they paid a certain amount through money transfers.

"The Bureau of Customs never sends letters of notice about packages from abroad and does not in fact mail to individuals as it is only the Postal Service Office (PSO) that sends out the notices," Biazon said in a statement.

He said the customs bureau's responsibility was only to assess the value and to collect payments for dutiable goods sent through the postal service.

"Should there be payments for duties and taxes, its payee shall be the Bureau of Customs and not somebody else," he said.

Biazon said one such report that his office received came from a woman who got a message that a friend from Australia sent her a package through LBC Cargo on July 9.

After two days, a certain Pam Edwards, who claimed she was from the Customs Clearance Office, called up with the information that the package was at Go to Market International Airport and asking the woman to pay taxes and duties amounting to P6,000 through a money transfer company.

DIGNITY OF 'WORK' Flood victims earn quick cash—and the praise of many—cleaning up their own streets and schools. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Buddhist group aids Marikina flood victims with cash-for-work

By Kristine Felisse Mangunay

FORTY-three-year-old Rosa Mendiguchi, whose three-storey boarding house was washed away by the recent floods, walked along the muddy streets of Marikina City, his heavy shovel in hand.

"It's hard, but that's the way it is," said Mendiguchi, "but here still was from the rain, after doing his share in cleaning up some of the affected classrooms in Barangka High School.

His friend, Jaime Sicol Jr., 39, moved about in rubber boots and wore pants over shorts with heavy gloves of plywood and other remnants of the calamity.

"We have to return to the school and clean again after taking a rest. We need the money," said Sicol, who must support his family.

Floodwaters in Marikina had almost completely subsided as of late last week, but local officials were still busy with the daunting task of cleaning the streets of mud and debris.

To ensure enough manpower in the city government and the Buddhist charity organization Tzu Chi Foundation tapped about a thousand affected residents like Mendiguchi and Sicol for the job.

Each resident was paid P400 a day for participating in the "flood-cleaning" operations under Tzu Chi's cash-for-work program. The money came from the foundation's charity funds raised by its members, mostly businessmen.

The daily pay could go a long way in helping the unfortunate victims to get back on their feet. Mendiguchi, a father of seven, said he could use the money for his kids' school allowance.

The foundation launched a similar project in the aftermath of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in 2009. It mobilized hundreds of volunteers for cleanup operations in the worst-hit communities including Marikina.

According to coordinator Kaliem Chan, barangay officials who were then approached for the cleanup recommended a payment of P200 or P300 per worker, less Tzu Chi's lunch-box fund (usually, Master Cheng Wei, raised the amount to P400.

At that time, the minimum wage in Metro Manila was P382, Chan noted. After seven formative campaigns for the project, "the volunteers just kept coming in," Chan said.

This year, the cleanup began on Aug. 16 in Marikina, particularly in Barangays Sto. Niño, Malanday and Tumana. On its last day, at least 1,000 workers turned up in Barangka alone.

One can see the Filipino's bayanihan spirit shining especially during these difficult times, Chan said. "Because it when they get together and clean other people's homes."

Mendiguchi agreed: "The money helps (can see monetary), but I think what's we all help each other, that's the more important thing."

Blind architect . . .

From page A10

spoke with an SM mall manager earlier this year.

"While we were talking, a member of the staff brought in coffee. I then felt someone gently tap (him) to the cup, telling me where it was on the table," Silva recalled.

At first, he thought it was the manager who took his hand. But when he learned it was the housekeeping staff member who did it, he was pleased. In such a situation, he said, mere verbal instructions would not suffice for a blind person.

"I felt that what we are doing at the malls, making their front lanes bare to assist PWDs, was finally bearing fruit," Silva said.

Silva was managing his own architecture firm in the late 1970s when he had frequent headaches and problems with his vision. He was later diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa.

In January 1982, Silva flew to the United States for a series of surgeries that took eight years. He returned to the country and started all in his life. All it took away the most basic tools he needed as an architect.

As his vision failed, he found himself with various businesses, boat merchandising to farming, from 1989 to 1993.

His heart never left

But his heart never left architecture. Determined to reclaim his intellectual career, he enrolled in a comprehensive computer training program for the visually impaired.

Experience and determination led him to its present philosophy: Advancement or purpose are achievable no matter one's disability, said the manager of Cyan Management Corp. He now manages several office and commercial buildings and is a consultant for a call center in Makati City and a golf course in Laguna province.

"Having a day job enables me to both provide for my family and pursue my advocacy to help other PWDs," he said.

Twice a year, Silva conducts lectures at Metro Manila malls, courtesy the SM Supermall chain.

One factory targeted security guards and other employees as they braced for the summer onslaught, while another prepared them for Yuletide shoppers.

In these lectures, Silva raises four basic points in dealing with the blind: "First, put in mind that the blind can still do many things such as walk, listen, talk, touch and smell. A blind person is only sightless, but is normal in every way."

Second, the visually impaired do not want to be "pitied" from society's activities. "They deserve to get an education, earn a living, get married and start families of their own, too."

Third, while blind people would certainly welcome any form of assistance, the helper might as well do it "the right way."

"The moment I step into a building, I only have a split second to decide where I want to go and," he said, by way of example. For some security guards tend to "upset" him before he can make that decision by pulling him in a corner for "blocking" the entrance.

"I get disconcerted when this happens next I lose my sense of direction," Silva said. "The best way to help is to ask me where I want to go."

Fourth, Silva said, sighted persons should not feel intimidated while whenever they interact with the blind. "People sometimes assume that because we're blind we're also deaf, so they raise their voices or speak very slowly."

Be verbal, not ritual

When giving directions, "verbal orders than visual instructions" should be used. "Tell him the toilet is 10 steps to his right" rather than say "down over there()," he added. "The more they would be to point using your lips."

It is also very advisable to make the blind hold on to your shoulder while walking. This prevents the sighted person from shooting if the blind person is having a hard time keeping up, especially if they are taking the stairs or on a ramp.

"The best way is to offer your elbow. Never asking, think make the blind person is more comfortable with," he said. This enables the blind "to listen to your body movements."

To help blind people with disorders in their mobile needs, the hardware and the rest. It's a movement, read the menu to them, let them know where the glasses are, making sure there are no falls in the brim, and how the food is arranged on the table.

'Society is a bus'

"Also, do not forget to introduce yourself first when starting a conversation with a blind person," he added. And don't forget to tap him on the shoulder if you need to leave.

During a PWD conference attend, he once heard of this illustration explaining the plight of the PWD: Society is a bus with a hole through which various sectors—business, labor, students, etc.—try to get in.

"The PWD cannot is represented by a way," he said. While the other sectors can easily get into the hole, there is a dilemma as to how that can get in."

There are two ways to include the PWD in society, Silva explained: One is to cut off the sick's "arms." The other is to make the hole bigger.

"And making that hole bigger means providing a more inclusive society for PWDs," he said.

'Sleepless nights' for P3M lotto winner

By Jayneve T. Sarsil

RODEMEL she ate practically afford everything but a good meal.

She's now the one of a 38-year-old housewife from Isabela province who won the jackpot in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) 6/42 lotto draw on Aug. 11.

Upon learning that she hit the winning combination 38-10-25-23-19-42, the farmer's wife had been having "sleepless nights" thinking what to do next, according to PCSO General Manager Ferdinand Rojas II.

Last she account inspiration about her overnight riches. The mother of three now she hesitant to ask neighbors how to get to the PCSO office in Pasay City, Rojas said after meeting the winner and her husband on Friday when the couple collected the P3-million prize.

The woman, who had been betting on the lottery for four years, paid only P20 for the lucky ticket. She based her picks on the birthdays and ages of her family members, Rojas added.

In Cho Sing, 38 Superlotto 6/49 draw five before hit the winning combination 7-36-10-12-5-8.

They will each get about P3.2 million out of the P6.4-million jackpot, according to PCSO executive Manager Margie.

The winning tickets were bought in Cainta, Rizal province; Quezon City; Sta. Rosa, Laguna province; Silay City, Negros Occidental province; and Iloilo City.

S. Africa official: Police had no choice but to fire on miners

MARIKANA, South Africa—South Africa's police commissioner on Friday defended the actions of officers who opened fire on miners a day earlier during a wildcat strike at a platinum mine. She said the episode left 34 people dead and 78 wounded, a sharply higher toll than initially reported.

The commissioner, Riah Phiyega, described a desperate struggle by police to contain the machete-wielding crowd of thousands of angry miners who broke through two lines of defense, leaving officers with no choice but to open fire with live ammunition.

"The militant group committed to stand the police firing shots and wielding dangerous weapons," Phiyega said at an international news conference here, using an extensive array of aerial photographs and video to demonstrate how the incident unfolded.

Previous attempts by the SAS among police force to repel the crowd with rubber bullets, water cannons and stun grenades had failed, she said.

"This is no time for finger pointing," Phiyega said. "It is a time for us to remember and shed dark moments we experienced as a country."

It was South Africa's worst labor-related violence since 1994. The shootings stunned the nation, with front pages of newspapers here plastered with pictures of dead miners lying in a field of straw beside lines like "Bloodbath" and "Killing Fields."

President Jacob Zuma was down his trip to neighboring Mozambique for a regional summit meeting to rush to the site of the bloody protest, 60 miles northwest of Johannesburg.

"These events are not what we want to see or what we want to become accustomed to in a democracy that is bound by rule of law," Zuma said in prepared remarks. He announced the formation of a commission of inquiry to investigate the illegal strike and the response of the police.

Police received no guidance from the protesters, including one that had been taken from a police officer who was hacked to death by the workers earlier in the week, Phiyega said, as well as many machetes, cudgels and spears.

POLICE surround the bodies of striking miners after opening fire on a crowd at the Lonmin Platinum Mine near Rustenburg, South Africa, on Aug. 16. AP

Miners who escaped the melee gave a very different account of what happened when police closed in on the rocky outcropping they had occupied. A 28-year-old mine employee named Pumba was among the striking workers There day when police began shooting, the rocky hill with razor wire.

"They started shooting at us with rubber bullets," Pumba said. "Then I saw people were falling and dying for real. I knew then they were proper bullets."

He struggled to understand why police had opened fire with live rounds.

"I never thought this would happen," he said. "We thought the police were there to protect us."

Workers who said they were victims of missing miners gathered at the site of the protest, waving wooden sticks and singing protest songs.

"I don't know where my husband is, whether he is in jail, among the dead or the injured," said a woman named Mokotedo who declined to give her first name. "Our husbands were only fighting for their rights, but the police are killing them."

The shootout followed a tense week of protests by workers at the platinum mine. REUTERS

Panic-stricken Indians flee cities in thousands

NEW DELHI—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh assured migrants from the northeast of the country that they were safe as thousands fled Mumbai, Bangalore and other cities on Friday, fearing a backlash from violence against Muslims in Assam.

Railway authorities have laid on extra trains from Bangalore and other cities for the two-day journey back to Assam, a northeastern state famous for its tea plantations and oil fields. Some media reports said that by Friday as many as 15,000 had left cities in the south and west.

The mass flight by mainly poor and workers back to their homes in a far-flung corner of the country was triggered by widespread rumors that Muslims, a large minority in the predominantly Hindu country, were seeking revenge for the Assam violence.

"What is at stake is the unity of our country. What is at stake is communal harmony," Singh told parliament.

"I assure you... that we will do our utmost to ensure that our friends and our children and our citizens from the northeast feel secure in any and every part of our country." Muslims across India have been alarmed by clashes in recent weeks between indigenous people in Assam and Muslim settlers from neighboring Bangladesh. At least 73 people have been killed and more than 400,000 displaced there.

India's post-independence history has been scarred by tension between religious and ethnic groups, which has sometimes erupted in bloodletting. While local tensions between Hindus and Muslims have often spread across the country, this is the first time that ethnic unrest in the remote northeast has had a domino effect in mainland India.

Two people were killed and dozens wounded last week when about 10,000 people rioted in Mumbai, the country's financial capital, following a protest by Muslims against the violence in the northeast.

Talk of Muslim revenge attacks has swirled all week, with threats of brutal attacks being carried on social media and mobile phone text messages.

"When we go out at night, then the Muslims [the rioters] say by saying that they will cut us into pieces," said Raju Barua, as he waited to board a train to his home in Assam at Mumbai railway station. "They say that you people are discriminating us in Assam and killing us there, we will not spare you here."

State websites have flashed continued names by mounting pictures of Tibetan monks in a funeral service after an earthquake in eastern Tibet in 2010, while writing about violence in Burma (Myanmar) involving Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims. Reuters

TOMOGRAPHY SCAN of the skull of construction worker Eduardo Leite. AP

Brazil worker survives iron bar piercing of his skull

RIO DE JANEIRO—A 24-year-old construction worker survived after an 6-foot metal bar fell from above and pierced his head, doctors said Friday.

Luiz Alexander Gasogne chief of staff at Rio de Janeiro's Miguel Couto Hospital, said, doctors successfully withdrew the iron bar from Eduardo Leite's skull during a five-hour surgery.

"He was taken to the operating room, his skull was opened, they examined the brain and the surgeon decided to pull the metal bar out from the front in the same direction it entered the brain," Gasogne said.

He said Leite was conscious when he arrived at the hospital and told him what had happened.

He said Leite was lucid and showed no negative consequences after the operation.

"Today, he continues well, with few complaints for a five-hour-long surgery," Gasogne said. "He says he feels little pain."

The bar fell from the fifth floor of a building under construction, went through Leite's hard hat, entered the back of his skull and exited between his eyes, Gasogne said, adding, "It really was a miracle" that Leite survived.

The accident and surgery took place on Wednesday.

"They told me he was lying down in the ambulance with the bar pointing upward," said Leite's wife, Lilian Regina da Silva Costa. "He was holding it and his face covered in blood. He took care of nothing but fingernail. When he arrived he told the doctors he wasn't feeling anything, no pain, nothing. It's unbelievable."

Ney Maranhão, the hospital's head of neurosurgery, said the Globo TV network that Leite escaped by just a few centimeters from losing one eye and becoming paralyzed on the left side of his body.

He said the bar entered a "nonfunctional" area of the brain, an area that doesn't have a specific, major known function.

Leite is expected to remain hospitalized for at least two weeks. AP

Battle far from over for illegals in US who get deferrals

MIAMI/LOS ANGELES—The Obama administration's move policy to grant temporary legal status to millions of young illegal immigrants will not halt the aggressive efforts of deportation but may now give them the same privileges as legal residents.

Within hours of the policy's going into effect on Wednesday, Arizona's Republican governor, Jan Brewer, issued an executive order denying public benefits such as driver's licenses to illegal immigrants who are given temporary legal status.

The move by Arizona, which has already clashed with the federal government over a tough immigration crackdown the state passed in 2010, reached its latest challenge to the federal government on immigration policy, with the potential for other states to follow suit.

Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman, a Republican, issued a statement on Friday saying the state will continue to deny officer's licenses, welfare benefits and other public benefits to illegal immigrants even if they are granted temporary legal status.

Most states, with California and Texas the notable exceptions, deny in-state tuition rates at public universities to illegal immigrants and that won't change for those getting deferrals unless states take action on their own.

Texas Governor Rick Perry, a Republican, criticized the Obama policy but appeared to stop short of barring "sheltered seniors" immigrants from obtaining licenses.

Beneficiaries of the new policy should be able to obtain licenses in most states—Arizona and Nebraska being exceptions.

The larger-than-expected numbers of youths living up to claim the two-year "deferred action" are stretching the capacity of immigration advocacy groups to handle requests for assistance.

The Obama administration says the new policy is part of an effort to transform immigration enforcement by focusing resources on the deportation of illegal immigrants with criminal backgrounds.

The new rules, dubbed "deferred action for childhood arrivals," shield illegal immigrants aged 15 to 30 from deportation for at least two years and allow them to obtain work permits.

To be eligible, immigrants must have been younger than 16 when they came to the United States, have lived in the country since June 15, 2007, and have not been convicted of a felony.

Applicants must also be enrolled in high school or have successfully graduated.

The federal policy change has been warmly received by Latino leaders but has been derided by some Republicans as "backdoor amnesty" designed to please Hispanic voters ahead of the November election.

In Florida, Monica Lacaro, 19, recognizes "the perks" that come with being able to live openly in the United States without facing the threat of deportation.

She doesn't want to sound ungrateful for the work permit, driver's license and Social Security card she can now obtain in Florida. But that still won't help her achieve her educational goals.

"I'm not going to complain, but I still don't know how I'm going to finish my education," said Lacaro, who was 9 when she came to the United States from Honduras.

Lacaro graduated from high school in Miami with college credits, and with the help of an anonymous benefactor enrolled at a biology major in Miami Dade College's honors program.

Without the financial support of her mystery benefactor, she would not afford the full tuition of $6,300, she said. But she worries what will happen after she completes her two-year associate's degree next summer.

More than I've bank in the line, he," she said. "Deferred action is just a small stepping stone to the right direction." Lacaro's mother left the country in 1996 at age 40 and her father can't afford to send her to a university as out-of-state rates. Her dream is to go to medical school to study to be a doctor, but only permanent residents can practice medicine. The same applies to practicing law or teaching.

Federal law would have to change for Lacaro to be eligible for in-state tuition in Florida, said Diane McGirt, director of external relations for the state's university system. Reuters

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozo

New Syria envoy: All conflicts can be solved

UNITED NATIONS (UN)—After two decades as a diplomatic troubleshooter in hotspots from Afghanistan to Iraq, Lakhdar Brahimi firmly believes that every conflict can be solved.

That conviction will be put to the test in his new job as the joint United Nations-Arab League special envoy charged with trying to unravel where his former boss Kofi Annan failed—bringing an end to the 18-month conflict in Syria.

"I think his biggest challenge is convincing the international community to intervene and end this—whenever it takes, because nonintervention has a much higher cost than intervention," Ibrahim Sharkash, a Middle East expert at London's Chatham House think tank, said in a telephone interview Friday. "Leaving this tragedy on is going to create many resentments, more extremism and more splinters to the region, and the truest regime is capable of anything to stay in power."

Brahimi brings a unique background and a wealth of experience to a task that many brushes and pundits have criticism off as impossible.

He was a freedom fighter in his native Algeria, drifted into diplomacy after his country's independence from France in 1962, became undersecretary-general of the Arab League from 1984-1991, and returned to Algeria as foreign minister from 1991-1992.

In 1994, Brahimi took his diplomatic skills to the United Nations, taking on key assignments in South Africa, Haiti, Afghanistan during and after the Taliban rule, and Iraq, after Saddam Hussein's ouster. He chaired a panel that examined UN failures in Rwanda's genocide and the massacre in Srebrenica during the Bosnian war and recommended a major overhaul of UN peacemaking efforts and peacekeeping operations.

Reflecting on his 20 years spent trying to make peace, Brahimi acknowledged in a speech in 2010 that conflicts are terrible and difficult and the cause or the result of problems that need to be solved.

Nonetheless, he added, "I still believe very, very strongly that there is no conflict that cannot be solved."

"My people, make these problems," Brahimi told the Saudi World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship in Oxford, England. "And we should be able to solve them. We surrender them."

Brahimi said he also learned that in dealing with conflicts "obviously you are a lot of stakeholders, a lot of cruelty, a lot of injustice, but you also come across a lot of kindness, a lot of courage, and a lot of forgiveness, and that makes up for it."

He succeeded that others famous US Senator George Mitchell accepted the job as President Barack Obama's special envoy to the Middle East in 2009. Mitchell said, "you live 400 days of frustration for one day of satisfaction."

Backing his years at the Arab League, Brahimi served as the organization's special envoy trying to mediate an end to Lebanon's civil war. There were several failed attempts to end the fighting, he said, but finally ca.hpe. 20, 1989, "we climbed a mountain" that looked like it would finish ... and it did. AP

Russian punk band sentenced, sparking protests worldwide

MOSCOW—Three young women who staged an anti-Putin stunt in Moscow's main Orthodox cathedral, and whose jailing became a cause célèbre championed by artists around the world, were convicted of hooliganism on Friday and sentenced to two years in a penal colony.

PUSSY Riot members, from left, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, Maria Alekhina and Yekaterina Samutsevich await last on a court glass cage. —

In the most high-profile rights case here in years, the imprisonment and trial of the women, members of a punk band called Pussy Riot, drew worldwide condemnation of restrictions on political speech in Russia. Rallies in support of them were held in dozens of cities around the world on Friday, including Paris, New York and London, where demonstrators appeared outside the Russian Embassy wearing balaclavas, Pussy Riot's trademark headgear.

Russia's rights groups and Western governments, including the United States, immediately criticized the verdict as unjust and the sentence as unduly severe. Because the women acted as a group, they had faced a maximum sentence of seven years in prison. Prosecutors had urged a three-year sentence. The still punishment was handed down by a Moscow judge, Marina Syrova, who declared the women in posing a danger to society and said they had committed "grave crimes" including "the insult and humiliation of the Christian faith and hurting religious feelings."

At stood of the statement spread, a crowd of protesters outside the courthouse hooted angrily, and they seemed to fall into a stunned silence. Sporadic protests and violent arrests continued throughout the evening.

While the courtroom erupted, the three women were left in their glass enclosure, embarrassed the "squarium," and photographers were allowed to snap pictures. As she was finally led away, the most outspoken of the three, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, said, "We are happy because we brought the revolution closer!" A police officer snapped back, "Still done."

Lawyers for the women said they intend to appeal the decision.

Putin has been on upwelling of dissent since disputed parliamentary elections last December, including demonstrations that drew tens of thousands of people onto the streets of Moscow. But the Penal Riot case in recent weeks morphed into an international sensation, and dressed intense attention on the efforts of the women, by remanded president, Vladimir V. Putin, to clamp down on the opposition.

This was partly because of the sympathetic appearance of the defendants—two are mothers of young children—and partly because their group uses music to carry its message. But it also set them in a David-and-Goliath struggle against a formidable power structure: the Kremlin and the Russian Orthodox Church.

But while the case has allowed critics of Putin to portray his government as spreading free speech and providing over a rigged political system, it has also given the government an opportunity to portray its political opponents as obscene, disrespectful outlaw-rousers. Blocked offensive backed by the Vatican is a conspiracy against the Russian state and the Russian church.

The nature of the culture clash was evident that month when the pop star Madonna paused during a concert in Moscow to urge the release of the women, who have been jailed since March, and performed in a black bra with "Pussy Riot" stenciled in bold letters on her back. The next day Dmitry Rogozin, a deputy prime minister, posted a Twitter message calling Madonna a "whore."

On Friday the Russian Orthodox Church issued a statement that referred to Nazi aggression and the militant atheism of the Soviet era, and said: "What happened is blasphemy and sacrilege, the conscious and deliberate insult to the sanctuary and a manifestation of hostility to millions of people."

The saga began in February when the women infiltrated the Cathedral of Christ the Savior wearing colorful balaclavas, and paraded around in front of the gilded Holy Doors leading to the altar, dancing, chanting and lipsynching for what would later become a music video of a profane song in which they lamented the Virgin Mary to rid Russia of Putin.

Security guards quickly stopped them of their guitars, but the video was completed with splices of footage from another church.

Because of the support they have received from stars like Madonna and Sting, the women of Pussy Riot have become more famous, at least outside Russia, than other political opposition leaders have, some of whom are also the subjects of investigations and prosecutions.

But while the women became cause celebrities, Pussy Riot is far more political than musical. Its members have never commercially released a song, or an album, and they do not seem to have any serious aspirations to do so.

When three were sentenced last month, the women apologized, saying they had never intended to offend the Orthodox church but rather sought to make a political statement against Putin and against the church patriarch, Kirill I, for supporting Putin's campaign for a third term as president.

But Syrova, delivering her decision, said that the political statements were spliced into the video later, and that the action in the church was destructive motivated by religious hatred. She also cited evidence that the women had psychological disorders, and she criticized them for embracing feminism, though she noted that "belonging to feminism in the Russian Federation is not a legal violation or a crime."

Inks Daily Times News Service

Enterprises enjoy enhanced broadband solutions with PLDT and IBM partnership

PLDT ALPHA Enterprise recently sealed a partnership agreement with IBM Philippines, Inc. to deliver advanced broadband solutions to large corporations. In collaboration with IBM Global Technology Services, PLDT ALPHA Enterprise is able to offer superior broadband connectivity with top-of-the-line IT equipment. Called Broadband SLACK, this partnership makes the latest computing and networking expertise from the world's top brands more available to the enterprise customer, enabling them to enjoy connectivity and productivity in one package.

Photo shows Eric Alberto, PLDT Executive Vice President and Head of Enterprise and International & Carrier Business for PLDT (and SMART Ltd. from left) and Marissa Almeida McKnight, President and Country General Manager of IBM Philippines, Inc. (4th from left) with (from left) Vic Tria, PLDT Vice President and Head of Corporate Business Solutions; Jose Hernandez, PLDT Vice President and Head of Corporate Business Group; and Rhoda Regalado, IBM Philippines, Inc. Global Technology Services Country Manager.

40th Year Anniversary tagline: Nourishing Filipino Dreams

(From L-R) Antonio H. Ocampo - Chairman of the Board, Alaska Milk Corporation; Cees t'Hart - CEO, Royal Friesland Campina; Wilfred Steven Uytengsu - President and CEO, Alaska Milk Corporation; Jose D. Sarmiento - Vice-Chairman of the Board, Alaska Milk Corporation

LG LG Electronics extends its support to the community rehabilitation and victims of the recent calamity through the LG Service Camp LGhere4U

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Blackwater Sports holds tryouts tomorrow

BLACKWATER Sports will hold a three-day tryout starting tomorrow at the SSS Stadium along Mariano Avenue in Bacoor City in preparation for the third season of the PBA D-League.

Coach Leo Isaac will conduct the tryouts set from 10 a.m. to noon along with team officials Johnson Martinez and Patrick Aquino.

Owned by former PBL chair Cresencio So, Blackwater is determined to have a mighty competitive squad to improve on its semifinals finish this last time. The other scheduled tryouts will be on Wednesday and Friday also at the same time and venue. D-League opens shop in October.

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teodoro S. Malasaloc
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

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Petron going for Fajardo, taps Racela

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PETRON will take the Philippine Basketball Association spotlight today by handing a prized 6-foot-10 behemoth and announcing a new coach.

Fajardo

When the league holds its annual rookie draft at Midtown Robinson's Place in Manila, Petron is expected to snag Cebuano stalwart June Mar Fajardo and name Chito Racela as replacement for Ato Agustin.

Sources said Racela, the former San Miguel point guard and now coach of Energen PH Youth, has been tapped to succeed the Bombers, although he refused to make any statement on it after the Pilas Pinoy made its 18th win in going on to Mongolia.

But the same sources said he and former Ginebra coach Siot Tanquingcen were the last two candidates for the coaching job.

Petron is expected to be right on pick first on Fajardo, an agile big guy who can play different positions. The Bombers also own the No. 3 pick, following Manila which picks second.

Meralco takes its turn at the pool at No. 4, followed by Barako Bull. The ceremony starts at 6 p.m.

The seven will also speculate with the unveiling of new franchisee Global Port Batang Pier by sportsman Mikee Romero. His Indian Capital 800 Inc., formally took over the franchise from Coca-Cola Bottlers in a deal approved by the PBA Board Tues Friday.

Batang Pier will pick No. 10 with Chris Cagulangan as interim head coach.

Elsewhere will discuss 5th and 6th, newly crowned Hale o Shine 7th, and 8 Mug 9th.

There are 71 rookie applicants this year which has been further reduced to 57 last Thursday.

Included in the pool are reigning NCAA MVP Calvin Abueva, former Smart Gilas team captain Chris Tiu, Ateneo frontcourt Nonoy Baclao, Jewel Ponferrada, Ateneo teammate Jun Colina, Lester Alvarez, Jason Lozada, Jerich Gracela, and FilAm Cliff Hodge. Chris Ellis, Jason Ebondantan, Charles Keith Jansen and Ike Muhlach.

Six (6) will pick first in the second round, 5-Mug, Global Port, Barako, Rain or Shine, Barako, Alaska and Talk 'N Text.

SAN SEBASTIAN'S Calvin Abueva attempts off Emilio Aguinaldo College's Nestor Hoppi. (See story on page A30)

Smart Gilas rips Jordan

By Musong R. Castillo

TAIPEI—Inexplosively playing cohesively despite being together for just over two weeks, Smart Gilas Pilipinas got off to a solid 56th Jones Cup start Saturday night with an 88-78 dismissal of Jordan at Taipei IPE College gym here.

Marcio Dourado showed why he is coveted by the Pilipinos in international play, firing crucial baskets in the seconds that helped hold off the tough Jordanians.

The naturalized 6-foot-10 center topped his dominant show in the fourth quarter by finishing off a fastbreak with a two-handed jam for 85-76 with 49 ticks left.

Considering that they were playing their first official game, the Pilipinos looked fluid for most part, sharing the ball well and finding the open man for easy baskets.

"Except for the turnovers, which we had quite a few, it was a pretty impressive game for us," PBA coach Chot Reyes said. "For a team that played competitively for the first time, yes, I am impressed.

Dourado finished with 17 points and 14 rebounds despite limited minutes because of early foul troubles and Gary David, the scoring champion in the last PBA season, hit 14 despite taking just nine attempts from the field.

"It was a good first game. We're using this tournament to learn to play together," David said. "I think our hardship and experience on the floor definitely prevailed."

He also played with several former standouts of 16 youth programs and came to this tournament without final debuts and Sam Douglas, leaving the scoring culprits in the seasoned fandom Wright and Rhaldeen Abu Bakar Hingada.

Jim also started strong with an 88.1% win over Lebanon in the tournament opener in veterans Samuel Babarao and Hamed Aligh scored 24 and 23 points, respectively.

Team Philippines clashes with Taipei B at 3 p.m. on Sunday, with the Taiwanese scoring off an 83-349 loss to a famous club combined by former PBA import prospect Jean Pinilla.

Stella, who was being screened in the last Governors' Cup by Meralco, played just 14 minutes and finished with 11 points and six rebounds with 7-foot Garvez from leading the way with 15 points in 20 minutes.

The scores:

TAIPEI—GILAS PILIPINAS (88)—Dourado 17, David 14, Jose 11, Fajardo 10, Cu-Cuanco 8, Ramirez 7, Villanueva 7, Alfaro 6, Reyes 5, Pinat 4, Ravanes 3, Mendoza 2

JORDAN (78)—Aligh 24, Hamed 23, Alfaro 14, Cu-Cuanco 6, Ramirez 4, Mendoza 3, Villanueva 2, Alfaro 1, Reyes 1, Pinat 1, Ravanes 1, Mendoza 1

Halftime: 40-35, 88-78, 84-54, 78-75

Pilipinas U-18 routs Kazakhstan

By Jasmine W. Payo

MARIO Bonleos and Jay Alejandro fueled a huge fourth-quarter run as the Baragon Pilipinas under-18 team blasted Kazakhstan, 83-69, for its second straight win in the 22nd Nike Asia U18 Championship over the in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Bonleos knocked in 20 points and skipper Alejandro collected 16 markers, six rebounds and three assists to lead the Philippines on top of Group D in the preliminary round in Bayan-Ulgii town.

With the victory, the Philippines virtually secured a slot in the semi-round of the 16-nation tournament. Only the top three teams in each group will advance to the semi-round.

The Philippines, who trailed at 19-20, in the first quarter, had a tougher time against the 2008 runner-up Kazakhs on a day after running in a 93-32 romp over Saudi Arabia.

"We struggled against their zone, but the boys kept on fighting," national youth coach Olsen Racela told the locators. "Slight improvements from our game (against Saudi), but we need to do better (versus last today)."

Kyle Soares, who topscored with 15 against Saudi Arabia, added 14 marks on while Hubert Carvajal's 10.

The Philippines gave his a sweep of its preliminary games against two dark champions from an 8-point outing.

Defending champion China impressed in 2-0 after blanking India, 119-54, while Lebanon also stayed perfect at 2-0 by running Hong Kong, 113-78, in Group A.

Thursday

PHILIPPINES (83)—Bonleos 20, Alejandro 16, Soares 15, Gan 11, Pingoy 6, Flores 6, Ramirez 5, Mendoza 3, Dionisio 2, Rodriguez 2, Santos 2, Bonleos 1, Alejandro 1, Mendoza 1, Ramirez 1, Soares 1, Pingoy 1, Flores 1, Gan 1, Dionisio 1, Rodriguez 1, Santos 1

KAZAKHSTAN (69)—Gaidarbek 22, Shaidin 20, Sharmar 10, Dmitrenko 6, Kalygin 5, Kashkan 3, Kalygin 1, Kalygin 1, Kalygin 1

Aguinaldo five shocks complacent San Sebastian

By Marc Anthony Reyes

EMILIO Aguinaldo pounced on a complacent San Sebastian side to hasten one-a-77, 67 stunner and kick off its second second campaign yesterday in the NCAA season basketball tournament at San Juan Arena.

The Generals surprised the Stags to take a 15-point lead after the first quarter and finished strong after San Sebastian showed to outline a point going into the final period.

It was only the third win in 12 games for the Generals, who hosted on their thing, Russell Reyes and Lawrencesman Sunday Stappi to pass their first win over the Stags since 2009.

Jan Ferdie flashed his old dominating form in the second game, whipping Lyceum, 77-67, to take sole leadership at 8-2. The Pirates fell to their fifth straight defeat to a 2-6 card.

The Stags, on leaders at the end of the first round of eliminations with four third and last finish, drew lackluster games from Calvin Abueva and Ronald Baetiong and absorbed their third loss in 10 outings.

Reyes scored 18 points and grabbed six rebounds, while Happy contributed 17 points and 10 rebounds. Ring, son of former PBA star Alex Ning, had 17 points and five rebounds.

The Generals bucked the absence of coach Gerry Esplana and teammates Jerwe Mocela and Francis Munsayac who served their one-game suspension following a melee during their game against St. Benilde.

"We prepared for them, we followed our game plan which is to control Abueva and Baetiong," said Aguinaldo assistant coach and former PBA player Andy de Guzman.

Pascual made only one of 10 attempts in Stade with 20 points.

"For pre-board. Abueva also appeared like he's too excited going into today's PBA draft where he is expected to be selected at least in the second pick overall. The 6-foot-7 shooter could only make nine points and eight rebounds.

Meanwhile, the Lyceum Baby Pirates normalized what could be a record 17 turnovers in losing earlier to the Red Cubs, 177-22. The Cubs improved to 10-1 while the Baby Pirates remained winless in 10 games.

STANDINGS

	W	L
Lyceum	8	2
San Sebastian	7	3
San Beda	7	3
Letran	6	4
Mapua	4	5
Arellano	3	6
Perpetual	3	6
Benilde	2	7
JRU	1	8
Emilio Aguinaldo	1	8

GAME I SUMMARY

Lyceum 177
Ayo 6-15, 4-5, 17; Ramos 4-11, 0-0, 8; Ramos 4-11, 0-0, 8; Ramos 4-11, 0-0, 8

THE ROUGH: 4x4 fans got the power of their machines in a hard workout day

Tough course hounds Ebdane Offroad bets

By Jane Navarro

SAN FELIPE, ZAMBALES—A course designed to make life difficult for offroaders does even a former champion couldn't handle was unveiled in the 2nd San Ebdane 4x4 Offroad Challenge here yesterday.

Noel Bautista Jr., mastered by a string of national titles and 17-year-old Jay Mapanoloid failed to survive the elimination round of the race-day event, which lured 27 drivers from major offroad clubs in the country.

Mapanoloid and Bautista were DSPs (Did Not Finish) in the highly technical and demanding Tracks 4 and 8, respectively, that featured a series of deep, muddy obstacles, a five-foot high rockpile of lose and uneven rougher 10-foot mass of sand known as "Governor's Hill."

Testing the guts of every off-roader, the course was designed by the National Association of Filipino Off-Roaders for the event that showcases one of Zambales Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.'s sports programs.

Ebdane flagged off the participants after a brief opening ceremony graced by several dozen fans. Omar Ebdane and San Felipe Mayor Carolino Bertos, and witnessed by enthusiasts who came in droves to marvel at how the monstrous rolls on the track.

"We are making headway in our goal to promote Zambales as the destination for sports tourism. Even during the rainy seasons, there are activities that tourists can enjoy," said Ebdane.

Survivors of the elimination rate will compete in today's finals where the top performers could bring home a huge chunk of the over P100,000 in prizes put up in the event organized by the Zambales Sports and Youth Development Office under Gia Sibulling.

Drivers from the Dampanga Off Roaders Club, San Jose Del Monte 4-Wheelers, Bicol Off-Roaders Club, Land Cruiser Club of the Philippines, Santiago (Isabela) Extreme, Cosmos Mabacan Off-Road Club, Nueva Ecija 4x4 Offroaders and Nueva Ecija Offroaders joined the challenge.

St. Clare, Centro Escolar sustain winning run

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ST. CLARE and Centro Escolar sustained their campaign with runaway victories over their respective foes Friday for their fourth win in the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities men's basketball at Mendiola University.

Jeff Nettles and Eugene Torres made their usual tour of duty for the Saints but this time got ample support from teammates in blasting the Team College Stallions, 100-52.

It was the latter's best start in the league thus far after acquiring the formidable backcourt of the University of Manila whose basketball program closed shop this season.

Nettles amassed his 19 points, while Torres scored 14 for St. Clare which also got double-digit outputs from Raymond Lammer who had 11 and Mario Gil who dropped in 10. The Stallions fell to the bottom of the eight-team heap at 0-4.

Axel Garcia banged in 20 points, while Mark Guillen and Edrajhi Lamoca added 15 each as Centro Escolar doubled New Era, 85-42.

The Scorpions also posted their fourth win in as many games to tie St. Clare in the lead, while handing the Heroes their second loss in three games.

Centro scored to an easy 103-68 victory over City University of Pasay. Carlito Cuba scooped 21 points for the Phoenix who lifted their record to 2-1. The Eagles fell to 0-4.

Jeffrel Mark Laure lifted the Baby Scorpions to an 86-37 rout of the Baby Heroes in the junior division. The Baby Saints made it a twin win with scores 79 triumph over the Baby Stallions. The Lady Phoenix, 99-26.

Alcantara, Reyes open Philta bids with easy victories

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FELIX cards Francis Casey Alcantara and Marc Reyes cruised to the second round with easy victories over respective opponents Friday night in the Oliveros-Philta Tennis Championships presented by Solaxon Powerhop Express Pera Bolada at Oliveros Sports Center in Davao.

The Fruno State stalwart Alcantara, the 2009 Asian Junior Open junior doubles champion, trimmed Apollo dela Cruz, 6-0, 6-1, while Hadrian Reyes, the 2009 PCA Open courtesy doubles champion, dispatched Christian Obania.

Top seed Jesus Fernandino and No. 2 Johnrey Arrilla also stormed their bids fast yesterday.

No. 3 pick and PH Davis Cupper Elbert Amata ripped Edwin Olivarez, 6-1, 6-0, while fellow Cupper and No. 5 Rolando Nael also came through with a 6-1, 6-0 win over young opponent Dex Tabuzgoal.

Alberto Villamor also advanced at the expense of Arnie Mana, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (7-3).

Villamor will next face Ateneo fixture who beat Reymon Dimabilang, 6-2, 6-3. Other winners include Alberto Lim Jr., and Antonio Quiza, Pete Bedad, Kim Lanuza, Stallionett, Glenn Jolon, Mario Salina, Leander Lazaro, Roel Capanggangan, Joseph Ocampo, Peter Egan, Renard rowen and Alexander Lanuz.

Sunday SPORTS

QUEK: Big rally from scores shore down

ICTSI ORCHARD LEG

Quek fires ace, cops crown

BAHRAIN/MANILA, Caotba—Singapore's Quincey Quek aced No. 16 to highlight a brilliant round of 7-under par 65 and complete a stirring comeback from seven-stroke deficit to capture the ICTSI Orchard golf championship here yesterday.

Quek, a former amateur standout and one-time Putra Cup individual winner, hit six birdies against a bogey in the first 15 holes then scored a hole-in-one on the 164t to win by two shots in the $60,000 tournament.

He wound up with a 13-under 270 at Orchard's Palmer course, beating erstwhile solo leader and top local hope Antonio Lascuña, Scott Barr of Australia and Taiwanese Lam Chi Que for the top $10,655 purse in the 72-hole championship capping a two-week swing of the Asian Development Tour in the country.

It was another sorry setback for Lascuña, who surged ahead in the third round with a fine 67 and fended off Barr's charge in the early going until Quek, also a former winner of the WWF/Express/BLE crown at Canlubang, caught fire.

Lascuña, who led Quek by six after 54 holes and paddled it to seven with a birdie on the first hole, bogeyed No. 13 and fell into a tie with Quek before the 23-year-old Singaporean came through with his ace to seize the lead for good.

The Filipino ace let worse for birdie in the last two holes but failed to set up birdie chances. He finished with a one-over 73 for 278 and claimed second money after losing by six to Bitter Salvador in last week's rivalry Invitational Dreamwiz/Sy/ICTSI in Cebu.

But this time, he had to share it with Barr, who finished the 18th for a 72, and Que, who sighted the par-5 16th for a four-under 68.

Lin Hsien-po of Chinese Taipei rallied with a 66 to tie Peter Richardson of England (71) for fifth at 280 as the frontrunners were rebounded from their lackluster showing in Cebu.

England's George Thurlow actually moved within one off Quek on the 14th but double-bogeyed the next hole and dropped out of contention. He finished with a 71 and ended up tied for seventh with Indian Rageev at 281.

Ryan Bullock, also of Australia, shot a 71 and teamed up (with at 282 while Salvador shared one with a 70 for a 283 and ended up 10th in the event sponsored by International Container Terminal Services, Inc.

Anton Four Aces

The final scores:

270-Quincy Quek (Dec/Dec/66-71-65); **278**- Antonio Lascuña (69-67-71-71); Scott Barr (Aus) (68-67-71-72); Lam Chi Que (Tpe) (71-70-67-68); **280**- Jeffrey Ooi (Sin) (73-69-71-68); Peter Richardson (Eng) (71-70-67-72); **281**- Rahul Rageev (Ind) (72-68-68-73); George Thurlow (Eng) (69-71-73-71); **282**- Ryan Bullock (Aus) (69-75-71-72); Lloyd Salcedo (Phi) (71-71-71-69); **283**- Jay Ingram (Phi) (70-73-70-70); **Bitter Salvador** (Phi) (70-73-70-70).

Alabang ladies dominate

ALABANG posted an impressive victory in Class A and finished second in Class B while Tagaytay Highlands and Forest Hills notched astounding wins in their respective divisions in the fourth leg of the 2012 Champion Infinity WPGMP Circuit presented by Pacquiers at Orchard Golf and Country Club in Lian recently.

Marilyn Reyes shot 41 points while Rizalina Vda. Tenebbe and Fraina Garon backed her up with 41, 40 and 38 points, respectively, as the Alabang ladies posted a 161-to-beat Sea Almachy 10 points for the Class A crown.

With Erika Smithers firing 41 points, Sea Biona tallied a 151 while host Orchard scored 147 to finish third in the premier class of the 36-to-play, four-to-count event organized by Women's Golf Association of the Philippines.

Tagaytay Highlands came in fourth with a 144 followed by Canlubang (141), Forest Hills (130), Apolinario (130) and Riviera (128).

The Highlanders turned in a 132 in Bandar Hen made 43 points and Marlene Sirna, Marissa Vergara and Rosario Gleason added 42, 34 and 33, respectively, for a four-point win over Alabang, which had a 148.

Ilos Biona scored 146 and topped Canlubang in the countback to third.

Anton seals overall Top Bracket plum

ANTON

ROBINSONS Cavite Mall's Young driver Carlos Anton topped his BSA triumph in Round 6 of the 2012 Circuit Showdown recently at Batangas Racing Circuit.

With the tallied of eighteen Group A the drivers the hottest of conditions, Anton prevailed more skilled his Mark Young-Honda prepared 1R8 over 16 laps and a hour 6 of 4 valued drive super cars.

With the win, Anton sealed the overall Top Bracket A Time attack plum through the support of Mark Young Racing, Castrol, Mobilcom, Shoreline Racing, Special Stage, Cars Unlimited, Motor Outlet, Autobath and Richmond Auto Parts.

Even with two races to spare in the Circuit Showdown series, it is now impossible for anybody to catch up with him in the point standings.

He clocked the day's best time of 1 min. 34.802, three seconds clear of runner-up Mario Ito (1:37.805) and third placer Dennis Garcia (1:38.581).

"I'm very pleased we already bagged the Circuit Showdown title this early in the series. It has been a good year since we also captured the 1600cc Championship last May. We have won on her 12 of the 13 races we joined in 2012. Our only blemish was when our transmission failed after my first timed laps to round 5 of the Circuit Showdown," Anton said.

Anton with this GS-Time Attack title is his over 20 championships in Philippine Motorsports over the past 23 years, including Hillclimb racing (6), Circuit Racing-touring cars (7), Formula Teams (1), Karting (2), Motos (1), Autocross (1) and Rallycross/Dirt Trials (2).

4th Mayor Ramon Bagatsing Cup up

4th ANNUAL tradition gains more ground with the running of the highlight races of 4th Mayor Ramon D. Bagatsing Memorial Cup at Philippine Racing Club's Santa Ana Park.

A 12-race extravaganza is up today, the late Manila mayor's birthday sponsored trophy races were held yesterday.

The main races are backed by the Philippine Racing Commission and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Other sponsors have also supported races to honor Bagatsing's memory and his many contributions to Philippine horseracing.

Highlighting the RDR-Philippines 6th Annual Memorial Cup Division 1 (total purse of P700,000); RDR-Philippines 4th Annual Memorial Cup Division II (total purse of P500,000); RDR-PCSO Special Trophy Race Division I and Division II (each with total purse of P600,000); PCSO National Grand Derby (total purse of P1.5 million for first to fourth placers); and Japan Racing Association Cup (sponsored by Philracom with added P200,000 for the winner).

The PCSO National Grand Derby rode features 2012 Philippine Triple Crown winner Hagdang Bato, coupled with saddlemate Barkley. Both are owned by Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos. They go up against Hermie Esguerra's High Voltage and Purple Bikini, Ponario Lim's Yes Sir Ito, and Joseph Oyhenart's Dashh.

Hagdang Bato is heavily favored in this race with Dashh and High Voltage expected to provide challenge.

Also on tap today are trophy races with added P3,00,000 each, the Mayor Ramon D. Bagatsing PHC Development Corporation, MF Leisure Exponent Inc., Pagcor, Ariston Manila Owners and Casino and Phoenix World Manila.

"This event," said the late mayor's son, Manila Rep. Amado S. Bagatsing, "has an exciting lineup of races and crowds we are sure racing fans will enjoy."

Former Manila Rep. Ramon S. Bagatsing Jr., on the other hand, thanked the sponsors and racing fans for their support.

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday BIZ

COLORFUL RECYCLED FLOWERS Natives of Bago make in Bagak City combined their resources to make organic-quality decor out of waste material, and their eco-friendly tools has drawn the attention of Europeans

Good management team lightens CEO's burden

MPIC's Jose Lim leads group's infra expansion program

MPIC CEO Jose Ma. K. Lim

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

BEING the chief executive officer of a 100-billion-peso company such as Metro Pacific Investments Corp. does come with a generous compensation and benefit package that ordinary Filipinos can only dream of.

The posh corner office, substantial salary, hefty stock options, luxury company car with personal driver, regular first-class trips abroad and high stature in the private sector are just some of the perks reserved for the elite group of top executives.

But being at the helm of a publicly listed, top 100 corporation also means having to carry 24 hours a day and seven days a week a heavy burden of responsibility that has caused a number of executives to buckle under the weight of overseeing a group with thousands of employees.

The inner crushing pressure to significantly increase company profit every year to provide shareholders a substantial return on their capital and keep rabid competition at bay can prove to be too much to handle, even for senior top managers with top-notch credentials and extensive experience.

Fortunately for the Metro Pacific group of companies led by Manuel V. Pangilinan, MPIC president and CEO Jose Ma. K. Lim is not one of them.

While the bespectacled, soft-spoken CEO admits that he can indeed feel the weight on his shoulders, the 60-year-old tells Inquirerdaily that his poke is made easier to carry by the support of professional managers who handle the day-to-day individual tasks that contribute to the bottom line of the infrastructure investment company.

MPIC has holdings in electricity distributor Manila Electric Co., water distributor Maynilad Water Services Inc. and toll operator Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. It also has investments in leading hospitals in Metro Manila and the provinces, including Makati Medical Center and Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

In sum, here, a combined workforce of over 14,000 employees.

Lim says he is lucky to be surrounded by "very capable" managers. He says that this enables him to devote half of his company time to developing the growth strategy for the group, instead of being caught up in the finer details of running the different companies.

He spends the other half of his time attending meetings of the board of the different companies under MPIC's wing and meeting with shareholders and potential investors.

"I just provide guidance in terms of policy direction but the team is so strong. The [senior executives] are very capable," says the young-looking Lim, who graduated

Vision, persistence help 'technopreneur' win tilt

NEUGENT Technologies' David Cruz III says that to succeed in the business of innovation, one has to keep learning and outlast one's failures.

The biggest danger faced by a business current pioneering any kind of new technology is to simply fall head over heels for his product —and to ignore the most crucial matter of how its intended market will make use of it, according to innovation specialists at the Ateneo Graduate School's Master in Entrepreneurship Program.

By unveiling the humor and weaving in on the latter, technology entrepreneur David R. Cruz III, co-founder of Neugent Technologies, is on his way to dramatically changing the lives of the students he serves while enjoying strong and sustained revenue streams.

Among Neugent's most salable products is the landline phone installed with a detachable Android tablet and a line of e-book editors for educators.

The device and others in the Neugent line up recently won for his company second place in the Asian Entrepreneurship Award 2012 held in Japan. Neugent is the only Filipino end-to-end company in the digital manufacturing arena.

DAVID R. Cruz III (left), represented Neugent Technologies, which was nominated in the Ateneo Graduate School of Business (AGSB) program hosted by Prof. Tony del Carmen (right).

BAYAD CENTER EXTENDS SERVICES TO THE NORTH

CIS Bayad Center, Inc. (CBCI) continues to improve its services by recently signing a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Benguet Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BENECO), enabling the power distribution cooperative's customers to pay their monthly electricity bills at Bayad Center's payment partners in Baguio and Benguet. Under the partnership agreement, Bayad Center's payment partners, namely Villarica Pawnshops, Western Union euRita eBiz Solutions and USSC Service Store, can perform Bayad Center functions and receive payments for CBCI's various institutional clients. Aside from this, CBCI has also established a partnership with the Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) that gave Bayad Center payment and collection functions to PHLPost offices. With these services, CBCI cemented its position as the country's leader and pioneer in over-the-counter bills payment services. Signatories in the MOA were (second and third, from left) BENECO President Jesy J. L. Mawosen and CBCI President and CEO Manuel Lorenzo L. Tuason. Also in photo are other signatories (from left) BENECO Human Resources Management and Development Division Manager Ally. Del Mar O. Gaviño and CBCI Sales and Marketing Head Arnold R. Katipunan.

Neugent is the only Filipino end-to-end company in the digital manufacturing arena.

According to del Carmen, Cruz was his second choice. Cruz graduated first and received his Master in Entrepreneurship (ME) certificate in 2010.

As required by the ME program, Cruz enrolled Neugent as the "business laboratory" that he would work on over the course's 16-month duration. He was not expected to take a leave of absence to pursue these projects.

He had to attend classes at Ateneo's Rockwell campus every other weekend and to use the time in between to apply his learnings to Neugent.

Cruz relates that during the first six months of the program, he realized through careful analysis of the Philippine business environment that his biggest potential markets would be in education and entertainment.

In the next six months, he worked on strengthening the weakest points in Neugent's value chain.

In the final six months, he came up with a prototype contained in a five-year business plan that were carefully worked on by professors, who were also entrepreneurs and had specialized fields of business expertise. The phone-tablet, tablet for schools, a lens that provides intelligence to an ordinary LED TV and a software-as-a-service (SaaS) e-learning platform were products that, during this year, were the results of his deliberate evolution as a technology entrepreneur.

Del Carmen relates that Neugent won the competition in Kaohsiung, Taiwan in Taiwan City, Japan's emerging Silicon Valley, not because it offered a breakthrough technology (he's not sure if it had a winning business strategy anchored on changing the lives of Filipinos through digital devices they would otherwise not be able to afford except through Neugent).

"The judges realized the kind of social impact Neugent had begun to unleash among Filipinos," says del Carmen. "We at the Ateneo were especially pleased that his devices would have a positive social impact, an end goal continued by the school."

With Neugent co-founder Kenan such ex-peers Michael Chang, Cruz says his company has learned through the years never to compromise a device without an intended market for it. Entrepreneurship is fundamentally about managing opportunities and then encountering careful risks. In technology entrepreneurship, especially device development, these risks are magnified many times over.

Cruz notes "Not all bets will end up successful, and failure is an unavoidable part of the process. The key to winning them is to build on agile innovation cycles to outrun the failures, the openness to keep learning and perseverance to move forward in the face of overwhelming odds."

(For inquiries about the Master in Entrepreneurship program please e-mail agsbmep@ateneo.edu or call 4907601 loc. 2807)

Good management team lightens CEO's burden

From page B1

from the Ateneo de Manila University with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and has a Master in Business Administration from the Asian Institute of Management.

The latest financial results help support Lim's claims.

At the end of June this year, MWC reported a consolidated core net income of P2.46 billion, up 38 percent from the P1.86 billion from the same period last year as every business delivered strong growth, particularly Maynilad, followed by Meralco and MWC. The hospital group has also started to contribute.

"All our businesses achieved strong growth in profitability for the first half of the year. We are well placed for continued growth for the rest of 2012," Lim says in a disclosure on the company results for the first half.

There was a time, however, when what Lim saw on the spreadsheets that came his way were worrisome results.

In 1998, when the Asian currency crisis peaked, the former vice president for treasury of Soy Bourbon Development Corp. (SBDC) was confronted with as much as P11 billion in debt and dire prospects for significant sales.

To survive but it became clear quite quickly at that time that difficult decisions had to be made, and one of them was to sell the stake in PBDC in 2003 and relieve the company's debt burden by financial chops.

PBDC's debt was brought down to a more bearable P6 billion after the sale, and it ensured even further after a series of financial transactions, including the delisting of Metro Pacific Corp. and the creation of a new company, MWC.

"In the world of arbitrage, you need to be detached and when you're detached, you can make decisions," says Lim, who eventually became CEO of MPC.

Having helped successfully save the company's financial course toward recovery, Lim was moved from CEO of MPC to President and CEO of MWC, the new vehicle for the emerging company's interests.

MWC, which is 55 percent owned by the Hong Kong-based First Pacific group, was listed in 2006, and Lim's mandate since then has remained the same: To continue to grow the firm's portfolio and be involved in the infrastructure development in the Philippines.

As CEO of MWC, he is a director in the following subsidiaries and/or affiliate companies: Beacon Electric Asset Holdings Inc., Illness Bustle Tollways Corp., Manila South Tollways Corp., Tollways Management Corp., Maynilad Water Services Inc., Medical Doctors Inc. (owner and operator of the Makati Medical Center), Davao Doctors Hospital (Clinica Abella) Inc., and Landco Pueblo Corp. (including several Landco subsidiaries).

He is also president of Metro Strategic Infrastructure Holdings Inc., which holds a controlling ownership interest in CIAL Metro Manila Tollways Corp. (Skyway).

With the group continuing to look for new areas to expand to, Lim will have even more items on his full plate.

But he is not complaining since the commitment is there for the group to be part of the country's growth story and contribute to making the Philippines an instrument for developments at par with that of its neighbors.

"I want MWC to be an excellently managed holding company with a stellar portfolio of companies that contribute to society and committed for the public's welfare," says Lim.

SM Prime's Jo Imbaquing, Ayala Land's Antonino Aquino, Pacific group chair Manuel V. Pangilinan

French food need not be expensive

Text and Photos
By Amado Mo. Guerrero
Contributor

LE PETIT Chef wants to make French food accessible to Filipinos

Edwin Garcia [top] turned passion into profit

ADD ED the Garcia, Henry and Edna, were into the printing business in support a rapidly growing family.

Business was good but Edna never forgot her passion for baking, for bread, cakes and food in general.

Then she and her husband traveled in France twice, and Edna immersed herself in French cuisine, generally considered among the best in the world. A course in culinary arts added to her knowledge.

"I brought home the (French) experience in the most authentic way," she says.

And in June this year she inaugurated her French restaurant "Le Petit Chef" (lepetitchef.com; 0917 811 0128) at the rapidly expanding Molino Liberty de Compleo along Madrigal Ave., Ayala Alabang. It is a family-run restaurant, with the Garcia children...Kenzo, Patrick, Luca and Madrey—helping at.

"My entrepreneurial skill made me choose this," says Edna, "and this is also one way of honoring Henry (The chef-lover's entrepreneurial skills."

Now, French cuisine like the language, hence creative and what-have-you, is considered hoity-toity. How do you counter this?

"Yes, French cuisine is considered snard, expensive," the entrepreneur observes. "So we are trying to diagnose this, and to show that French cuisine can be less expensive yet tasty."

Some of the dishes are French people who work in a nearby building and who, Edna believes, "are homesick for their food."

Bestsellers are the lobster newburg, shrimp bisque, coq au vin (chicken with a dash of wine), Chicken Cordon Bleu and Boeuf Bourguignon.

And for dessert you can order the cake l'Opera, mousse au chocolat, or crepe.

"We have gourmet chocolate for soups, no gimmicks, especially the Christmas," Edna announces.

The Garcia promote their cafe in their Ayala Alabang community where they have a lot of friends and where, as the entrepreneur laughingly foresees, "we can cater occasions to be the community dialogue and we feel the impact of word-of-mouth." There's also Facebook and Wi-Fi.

The clientele has been growing, and they have been getting reservations for birthdays, debuts, and baptism and wedding receptions that are simple and quiet. And when I was there, above was this gaggle of Bureau women chatting and dining in the mezzanine.

That part of the restaurant is impressive, for it houses a mini-library with a collection of well-selected titles: Fiction, nonfiction, poetry, all classics. (One of the children, Raissa, majored in Literature at the Ateneo de Manila.)

The cafe is also now into catering and delivering.

The Garcias expect a return of their investments in a year and a half. But to Edna, just as important "if not more so is the fact that (religious) groups gather at the restaurant to chat and "that is one of the purposes God has given me, this place where He can be (called) about."

FILIPINOS will likely find it easy to fall in love with French food

Moment of truth for insurance companies

THE RECENT floods brought by the southwest monsoon or habagat were fresh reminders of the risks Filipinos face. But there are ways of managing these risks. And one way is to subscribe (buy) insurance coverage.

Non-life insurance protects one's property such as a house, car, or a business from the many "what ifs" of life—what if there is a big flood, what if there is an accident, what if there is a fire, or what if the weather turns really bad and a business fails to open? Insurance companies come in the scene when these things happen.

Andrew Ge, president of Reliance Insurance Company, says unfortunate incidents may or may not happen but is always pays to be ready for them.

"It is to some like those whose people-mobile born realistically they are and they start appreciating how important insurance is," says Andrew.

Andrew knows whereof he speaks. He literally grew up in the business of insurance, as a young boy, he would often go to the office of his grandfather who founded Reliance after World War II. The company celebrated its 60th anniversary on August 16.

Personalized service

Andrew says what sets Reliance apart is its personalized service which their clients have learned to value.

"In times of car accidents, our claims people are the ones who go to our clients to assist them when a claim arises," he says. "As for flood claims, we immediately advise indepen. dent adjusters to go to the clients to assess the loss and most of the time our people also go and visit the insured to expedite the process."

Delivering a promise

For Andrew, the main product of insurance is a promise—a piece of paper that guarantees a certain amount if and when an unfortunate incident happens.

"Claims payment is our moment of truth," says Andrew. "We always look forward to paying the claims because that is what insurance is all about. In paying claims, we fulfill our promise."

How to speed up claims

He shares such honest readers some tips on how to speed up their insurance claims, especially those related to the recent floods:

1. Contact your insurer immediately.

Reliance always reminds its clients to call immediately once a claim arises. This is to ensure that the damage will be contained and the claim will be processed quickly.

2. Compliete all needed documents.

Andrew says "it takes two to tango," meaning the insured also has a part in making sure his claim is processed promptly. Documents to establish ownership of a car or property are always needed, as are documents like invoices and receipts that can prove the actual cost of the loss.

"We need to make sure the claim is legitimate and accurate. Insurance is not charity. We are here to indemnify the insured, meaning we are here to put him back to his pre-loss position prior to the loss. The insured should not profit from insurance," Andrew explains.

3. Make sure you are covered.

Andrew notes that there are cases when claims are denied mainly because the loss was not covered under the policy.

"During Ondoy there were cars that got flooded which had comprehensive insurance but did not have ACDN (Acts of Nature) coverage. Sadly, you need ACDN to cover for loss from flood. The same goes true with fire insurance. You need protection from allied perils such as typhoon and flood to be able to collect from your insurer," he points out.

Andrew adds that though flood is an added cost as far as your insurance premiums are concerned, the good news is it doesn't really run much. "For a mere 0.3 percent of the value, you can have your property—your car, house, factory or machinery—insured against flood which is becoming a growing risk," he says.

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Sunday BIZ

Echostore combines good cause with commerce

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

IT STARTED out as an idea: marrying mission and money in enterprise. Likewise, the founders joined that they wanted a business that would sustain them as they age gracefully. It would have to be a low-profit, low-limited liability company.

Four years ago artist Jessie Jocson, marketing specialist Perrie "Chit" Asin and sportswear whiz Regina "Reena" Francisco teamed up to create that around the eight human lines—people, planet and profits.

Echostore was conceived as a specialty store that promoted sustainable lifestyle. It started its reputation sourcing and marketing eco-friendly products from all over the country, produced by communities or groups for their livelihood. Echostore is the acronym for Environment & Community Hope Organization Store.

ECHOSTORE products are certified eco-friendly.

Since its inception, it has won the prestigious World Business and Development Awards in partner with RagoBizNet for social entrepreneurship. Echostore is also one of the three representatives from the Asia-Pacific that is nominated for the Garden's Women's Initiative Awards in Bali this October.

"It's about doing business with a heart," said Asin, Echostore's president.

"Beyond making money, we are helping women-tribes and small entrepreneurs. We're giving others, who don't have opportunities, to earn money," added Francisco, Echostore's operations manager.

Local deli

The cost of Echostore's business is promising livelihood.

Asin recalled how Echostore initially ventured in to project under the Philippine Business for Social Progress.

Although PBSP trained poor communities on culture formation, capacity building and skill training, the beneficiaries didn't have buy-out scheme to sell their products.

"We would ask the community if the product would suit our store. If not, we would package it for them or they would have to change," said Asin.

The initial offerings were organic local delicatessen products, teas and bags from recycled materials.

Echostore in Salcedo served as an incubator for the market to respond to their product. Items managed to get into the main stores: Cadbury Joy in Bargain Hunt makes use of discarded cocoa husk for accessories. Invisible Items, headed by artist Ann Wiley, recycles old Bayanan and Manila tapes and grocery plastics into patterned bags. Recycled Tetra-D packs, made by the Macaraig Depot Foundation, have become a classic in the upcycling category. Dyan were made by hand in Ground Galings communities where sewing machines were not available.

On inviting the planet, Echostore's spin-off is its green grocer that sells produce from the fabulous farms in Alaminos, Cavite and from farmers who cultivate organic vegetables.

"I grow what I like to eat—arugula, lola soup, eggplants, kitties, bitter gourd and the other vegetables that go with pinakbet," said Asin.

PACITA Juan (seated), Reena Francisco and their partner Jeannie Jocson started a business that looked after people, planet and profits.

Deli items—pâtés, jams and unsalted paste, teas and water drips from Ilocos, native chocolate, artisinal cheeses from Abiquin, Bicol—make up 65 percent of the sales.

Lifestyle changes

Aside from uniqueness and freshness, Echostore's appeal lies the incentive behind each product. "Part of what you're paying for is the story that we don't want you. That's not reasonable. You buy it because it's good," maintained Asin.

All the products have tags that reveal their provenance: abaca rice-reed bags by the Arms of Hesperus, a sight-restricted parent by Hesperus and some lily bags by the Villar Foundation, and coffee and rain-filled tumblers by Kabalebang Weights ng Buwis Buhi. Proceeds of the beaded bags made by a women's correctional institute pay for the medicines of the inmates.

On its profitability front, explained that the flagship store in Salcedo expanded to 100 sqm to include the produce section. Further, Echostore opened a 30-sqm space in Podium. Sales have been growing by 20 to 30 per cent annually. The founders assure the success.

The customers tend to be of flavor and more attuned to environmental causes, some 80 per cent are women.

Part of Echostore's credibility list is the lifestyles of the owners. Jocelyn is a Yoga instructor. Jean and Francisco soak up Barcelo's breathing and have been cooking organic foods.

"We can't promote a sustainable lifestyle if you're smoking and drinking," said Asin. "We had to make lifestyle changes. We must also like what you sell."

Advocacy

Aside from the favorable terms, Echostore had distribution outlets in high-end places such as the souvenir shops in the Shangri-La hotels and Marriott Cebu and Naia Terminal 3. "That was our model. No rent charge. They get a percentage of the sales," said Asin. "It was good exposure."

As word got around, Echostore attracted benefactors who believe in their cause. Henry RCBCtel headed by Jocelyn provided the space. Doubling Connection with Hope and Opera (units through Sustainable Initiatives) was organized to help these communities in packaging and to market their products.

Volunteers such as designer Bo Pamba, Vicky Lim Ortega and Rambo Lim saved fly around the country to execute stores. They would educate the communities on how to package their products. It has also attracted organizations such as the Canadian International Development Authority and New Zealand embassy.

Weight have been providing the founders airfare and accommodation to the provinces where the Echostore proponents can reach. "We're like the souvenir missionaries. Our gospel is empowerment through livelihood," declared Asin.

"Our real work is helping communities. Echostore is the showcase of what we've been doing," said Francisco.

LTE: The More Mobile Future

SMART Communications and Partners Hold First Long Term Evolution Forum

Industry movers and shakers converged at the Dusit Thani Hotel last August 13, 2012 to attend SMART Communication's first Long Term Evolution Forum. SMART bestowed a series of short presentations with partners and industry leaders Ericsson, Evolution Nokia Siemens, Huawei, and NTT Docomo.

The event was hosted by Ramon Isberto, Public Affairs Head for PLDT-SMART Communications. As an opener, Napoleon Nazareno, SVP and Head of SMART Consumer Wireless Division, shared an intriguing story about his first encounter with LTE. While visiting in Japan, he was able to score a particularly pricey wireless game onboard a bullet train flying through the tracks at 300 kph.

This kicked off a series of speakers and their core networking insights including Dirk Weitkä, Chief Technology Officer of CSO/Systems; Lawrence Macalinal, Chief Technology Officer, Ericsson Telecommunications, Inc.; Albert Nuyckbos, Head of Solutions, Nokia Siemens Networks; Carol Pine, Director, Business Consulting, Huawei Technologies Company, Ltd; and Yoshihiro Enzi, Senior Technical Advisor for SMART and NTT Docomo.

But what is LTE? Long Term Evolution, or LTE, is the answer to the world's need for 4G technology. It promises a data connection speed of up to 100Mbps, lower latency, and a much higher download speed than fixed broadband networks and current 3G mobile networks. So far, it looks like LTE will be the ultimate standard for mobile broadband connectivity.

SMART officially launched LTE in April 2012 in Boracay, and is now currently testing the technology with establishments in Baguio, Davao, and Cebu. LTE data hotspots have reported speeds as high as 50Mbps with peak uploads of up to 30Mbps. LTE easily works across most platforms and devices.

"For the first time in our industry, we have a true 4G connection standard that not only sets in all parts of the world," Dirk Weitkä, CSO/Systems Chief Technology Officer, said during his presentation.

LTE is a response to consumer demand for faster connectivity and service, as well as a way for providers like SMART Communications to manage an increasingly complex network. As smart phones and hand held gaming devices make up to 65 times more traffic on a network, SMART and other telecommunication providers around the world are turning to LTE infrastructure and speed. Using LTE, SMART will handle enormous quantities of data: video, calls, streaming, downloading and more.

LTE can cover large areas with fewer cells because of a lower bit rate. The Philippines' numerous islands and remote areas. And since LTE is a mobile technology, it has a higher chance of converting the areas in these areas that otherwise have no access to fixed broadband. Despite geographical challenges, mobile penetration in the Philippines is already 99%, representing a market that vast and reasonably demandable more data services than present ever. Consumers already use mobile devices to connect to the Internet on a regular basis, helping to making Filipinos number 1 in social networking among other innovative solutions. Not bad for a country with only 4% fixed broadband penetration.

Broadband capability and Internet connectivity play a massive role in shaping a nation's economic growth. A 10% increase in broadband penetration can create as much as 1.40% growth in national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). For a country on the brink of an economic explosion, LTE may be a catalyst for exponential growth. LTE represents a promise to step forward towards the more mobile future, a future where a smart phone connection can actually be faster than fixed broadband.

Sunday BIZ

RETIRED? Developed as a retirement home, Campuestohan Highland Resort is now being positioned as a tourist destination.

New eco-tourism destination rises in Negros

Resort seeks to boost tourism earnings of Negros Occidental

By Carla Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A first-homestead in Talisay City, Negros Occidental will soon start operations as an eco-tourism destination and give a boost to the city's tourism industry.

The resort, called Campuestohan Highland Resort, is located in Barangay Calumangan near the barrio along the boundary of the cities of Bacolod and Talisay and provides a view of most of Negros Occidental and Panay Island at a glance.

The site of the resort was acquired by Ricardo Tan, formerly an assistant secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications, for his wife Nita who asked that a retirement home be built there.

Tan said he bought the Campuestohan property in 2004 because it was his wife who was told to leave [illegible] in the Bacolod-Silay Airport, but ferries crossing the sea to Panay, or taxis passing over Bacolod City while the sun shines were mostly tourists and sisters.

And at night, one can see the distant lights of Negros' cities from the resort, where the air is fresh and the soothing sounds of nature lull you to sleep.

The resort, which is about 15 to 40 minutes from downtown Bacolod City, has a main log cabin with seven rooms and a huge balcony for entertainment. It also has 20 cottages shaped like huts of early tribesmen—which also look like igloos—for guests.

It has a playground, adult and children's pools with changing rooms shaped like giant tree trunks and private huts. The grounds have figures of an elephant and dinosaurs made of concrete, with more animal figures being planned.

Tan said they have invested a substantial amount in the resort, which has overnight accommodations for 150 persons in the log cabins and cottages. It also has a computer where guests could put up texts.

The construction of the structures started last June 2011 and is still ongoing.

A pavilion for conferences and parties and an artificial river are also being built at the resort. Tan also plans to revive his famous Dangka Restaurant.

The resort will also have a place where guests can go horseback riding, a canteen garden, and a wedding altar and carriage for couples who wish to get married there, he said.

Tan said he designed the facilities at the resort along with his architect, while his wife has been busy with the landscaping.

He also added that development of the resort in the area would improve the livelihood of residents as the resort would buy the crops they grow.

The resort will also help boost the city's tourism industry.

Talisay City has registered an increase in the number of tourists in 2009 and 2010. In 2009, the city recorded 20,466 tourists, way above the 2,961 in the previous year. Tourist arrivals grew further to 40,092 in 2010.

One of Talisay City's attractions is The Ruins, a grand mansion built by Don Mariano Lacson following the death of his wife Maria Braga.

However, a fire set by guerilla fighters during the Japanese occupation—as the mansion could not be used as a headquarters of Japanese forces—reduced the structure to ruins, but left the foundations standing.

The other attractions are the Tana Hilutay Lizares Ancestral House, the Don Serafines Lizares Mansion, Barangay Concepcion Hamtonan and Lacson Plantation, the Manila High Wood Crop Farms and the Hamtons Organic and Vermiculture Farm, among others.

Talisay City government also plans to implement a restoration and redevelopment project of the city's plaza complex that aims to convert the plaza, the Talisay City Central Public Market and the old Talisay City Hall into a mixed use facility.

Aside from this, the historians Nicholas de Ocampo Church which was built in 1850 and the old Lizares mansion will be restored and conserved to highlight the richness of Talisay's history that will boost the project's tourism value.

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Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, Inc.

PRRM Today

Helping people go further

A legacy of best practices in corporate social responsibility

PRRM's Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) is one of the pioneers in developing rural development programs in the Philippines. Founded in 1952 by Dr. Jesus Lava, PRRM's mission is to help rural communities develop themselves and improve their quality of life through integrated rural development programs that address poverty, illiteracy, poor health, and environmental degradation.

Starting as a small NGO in Nueva Ecija, PRRM has grown into a network of programs in the Philippines and has been recognized as a leader in rural development. Its programs have been replicated by other organizations and have been adopted by the government in its own rural development programs.

PRRM's approach to rural development is holistic and participatory. It works with communities to identify their needs and develop programs that address those needs. It also provides training and technical assistance to help communities implement their programs.

PRRM's programs have had a significant impact on the lives of rural people. It has helped to increase agricultural productivity, improve health and education, and reduce poverty. It has also helped to empower rural communities to take control of their own development.

PRRM's success is due to its commitment to its mission, its participatory approach, and its willingness to learn and adapt. It is a model for other organizations that want to help rural communities develop themselves.

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Sunday **BIZ**

Young set invests time, effort in web design firm

By Gabriel Cardinoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—Twenty-six-year-old Mikkie Angela Fernandez dreamed of having his own company and running it someday.

He was still an information technology student then but he was already designing websites with the passion and excitement of a child playing with a favorite toy.

Two months ago, Fernandez's dream came true when he and college friends, William Allan Balanza and Ronald de Leon, launched Pixel Hub Creative, the first web design agency in Dagupan.

"We're so excited to have this business and this office," says Fernandez, the company's managing director.

But before getting where they are now, Fernandez and his friends had to work in different places, adapt to different work environments and deal with different clients.

After his college graduation in 2006, Fernandez was hired as web designer and developer by The Design People in Metro Manila. After two years, he went freelance and had as clients GIS Omni/GIS Media, a web designer and developer firm based in Pasadena, California; Bato and Shower, an online marketing specialist based in Singapore; and Paper Boat Creative, a web design firm based in London.

"I was employed by The Design People, my first ever employer. They wanted small and lean at those times. I realized, pwede pala [it was be done]," says Fernandez, a native of Bayambang town.

Balanza, 28, a computer engineering graduate, used to be a freelance web and graphic designer.

De de Leon, 30, a computer engineering graduate, used to be a freelance web and graphic designer.

De Leon, 30, has worked for more than six years as software engineer in different companies in the US. He is now connected with the Recruitment Equipment Inc., an award-winning gym and clothing company in the US.

Fernandez says they had to put together part of their savings to set up their office and pay for their operating expenses, such as rental, utilities and salaries of their four employees.

"We really had to spend a lot," he says.

But losing all their investments is the least of their worries because they say they know they have a good comfort here.

"Those who need our services are just there, especially now that we are in the digital age," Fernandez says.

Balanza says being the first web design company with an office in the province gives them an edge over freelance web designers.

PIXEL Hub Creative managing director Mikkie Angela Fernandez (right) and creative director William Allan Balanza pose in front of their office in Dagupan City

"It's about trust. Having a physical office builds trust," Balanza says. "It's because there are some freelancers who do not finish a project and the clients do not know where to look for them."

Today, Fernandez's team is already working on some projects and negotiating with several local clients.

In April, its company "branded" the Bangus Festival—from website (www.bangusdagupancentral.com), billboards to brochures. They also redesigned the Pangasinan provincial government's website (www.pangasinan.gov.ph) to make it more attractive and interactive.

Fernandez says one of the challenges his team is dealing with right now is educating many of their clients.

"Many people are hesitant to spend for a website. So we tell them why they need a website and how it can help their business," Fernandez says.

Some prospective clients, he says, also find it expensive to have a website. "And we do a lot of explaining why it is so. We have to explain the specifications," he says.

But he says it will not take long for business owners here to realize what a website can do to their businesses. "She is Baguio City and Metro Manila."

"From our experiences, there, a portrait studio found hotel, increased its sales after we launched its website. Overseas Filipino Workers contact them for their weddings when they come home," Fernandez says.

At their office, Fernandez and Balanza come in their shorts and rubber sneakers.

"But we have professional relationships here. We are in it that we meet our deadlines," Fernandez says.

Should Ads Indulge In Trivializing?

By Roger Pe

What is your attitude towards advertising that casts doubts on competitors? Would you want to patronize a monopolistic business? If you desperately need a phone line, would you want a one-network carrier and not given a choice? Would you want to go back to the decidedly waiting just to get connected?

What is going to protect the consumer? What is the consumer's guarantee? Would he live happily ever after and never experience brand failures if he switches to a brand brandishing to high heaven that it is the be-all of perfection?

Why do some brands go on a media-buying binge and spending huge money? Burden the question, are they trying cover-up for their own inadequacies? With all the marketing frenzy that is happening, we need the safeguards of consumer protection to be vigilant, always on alert, and never failing to take the cudgels for the consumer.

And whatever happened to upholding truth in advertising?

One only needs to see the many complaints against a telecom brand to know that "all network not working, dropped calls, slow Internet and delayed messaging" are happening to them as they speak. So why switch? Check its size.

The consumer is not dumb not to know the difference.

The Ad Standards Council, (policy-making body of advertising in the Philippines) clearly shows the line. In its latest rules of conduct, ASC's Article II, Sections 1, 2 and 3 clearly state the following: "Advertising copy, slogan or terms should not tend to mislead or confuse the consumer as to the materials, content, origin, utility or function of any product or service."

"An unqualified, sweeping or superiority claim may be permitted only if proven to be true in all material respects in relation to all products or services, whether competitive or non-competitive."

On misleading presentations, here's what it says: "An advertisement must not create confusion as to the identity of the advertiser or product." Moreover, it states: "Product features/attributes being compared should be verifiable, measurable and/or definable."

Putting down competitions to enrich oneself leaves a bad taste in the mouth, more so if the problems also affect the aggressor.

In its latest advertising campaign, a telecom brand trivializes dropped calls, delayed messages, slow mobile internet connection and unjustifiably makes a generic swipe against networks that are supposedly not worth the consumer's patronage.

In one ad, it uses comedian to indulge in making a mountain out of a molehill. In the story, he portrays a rich guy out to marry the woman of his dreams. Holding a diamond ring up high, he makes a marriage proposal over the phone in his chandeliered lavished mansion. Waxing romantic, he goes nuts when the line suddenly sputters and sinks us to silence. The brand then pounces in, and gets into the picture: Dropped calls? It asks and then offers a solution: "Time to change, live more."

In the second series, the campaign takes us to three different locations: a grade school guidance counselor's office, family reunion in a restaurant and hospital maternity clinic. Here, the ad runs down allowing us to take a peek to three different situations where a supposed-to-be "text message rains in late" inconveniencing the characters in the story.

As in the first, it asks the audience a presumptuous question: Delayed messages? It promptly offers the same solution.

In the third ad, it transports us to the main character's favorite watering hole. Same cafe setting, with four different girls, each time. Would a guy never call a pretty woman, even a seductive vamp, or a sugary-sweet collegiate? All the characters mouth a nondescript copy: "You never called", "It is not worthy", "It is not working", etc. The ad further takes us down to earth with a slapstick visual punchline caricature of a man color ding queen opening explosives.

In the fourth ad, the brand completes the trivial pursuit with a young man, his buddy and pinball ding in three different locations. They all look dazed and stressed out apparently caused by slow Internet connection. Having dramatized the problem, it asks a problem that is also being asked by it own subscribers: Slow Internet connection?

On its website, the brand squeezes its witch hunt to the last drop by quoting subscribers experiencing dropped calls, delayed messages and slow Internet connections.

Why would a telecom company resort to competition bashing? Is the tide turning against them and business is ebbing away?

Let the consumer decide. Let's give due respect to him and even to our manufacturing business rivals. Let the spirit of fair trade practice in the industry prevail.

POSTPAID

SUNDAY AUGUST 19, 2012 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER C1
Sunday LIFESTYLE Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

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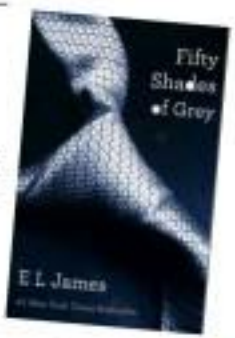
SMART LIVE MORE

THE 'MOM PORN' EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT

'Fifty Shades of Grey': A literary one-night stand



Yes, it can be a fun read, but it is basically a sexed-up romance novel that you won't remember much the morning after

By Alya D. Honasan

ONE of the first erotic novels that made an impression on me when I was in grade school (hey, I was precocious, and my father was liberal) was a novel by then best-selling writer Harold Robbins, "The Betsy," published in 1971 and set during the heyday of the automotive industry in Detroit in the roaring '20s.

My friends and I had read other more graphic (read: filthier) stuff by then, but there was that unforgettable scene where powerful company patriarch Loren Hardeman, already established as a rabid sex maniac and womanizer, is hosting a formal dinner. (Charleston would later "see" both his own daughter-in-law to be and the French seamstress flown in to make her wedding gown on the same day, but I digress.)

Hardeman crashes behind and under the dress of the surprised young woman sitting beside him, and, in mid-sentence, in front of six unsuspecting Detroit high society personages, proceeds to unleash her hot, "The girl is initially shocked—but is soon registering in loudly contained delight. It was the epitome of sexy cool. I thought then, and quite the reason an adult continues.

The gallery of writers of erotic literature is a colorful one, ranging from such characters as D.H. Lawrence, Henry Miller and Anais Nin to Robbins, Erica Jong, and more recently, Anne Rice, writing as A.N. Roquelaure in the days before she hit it big with her sexy vampires.

I was delighted at the idea of this (like many other girls who wanted to unseal unpleasantness, amazed at how, commissioned to literally write porn, she just couldn't rein in her elegance, and still came up with something like "Tricks of Venus."

I read "Lady Chatterley's Lover," but couldn't quite get past Mellors the gamekeeper's unutterable accent. Rice's wild adult fairytale trilogy on Sleeping Beauty (who's not kissed, but deflowered awake by an insatiable prince) was a gift from my sister, editor, and has as many twists and turns in its excessively erotic plot as it has sexual encounters (and there are a lot, in every imaginable permutation).

Intellectual interest

I drastically didn't turn into a deviant or a nymphomaniac, even as I developed an intellectual interest in erotica—after all, they do say the mind is the biggest sex organ in your body. This did I look forward to read-

ing E.L. James' much-talked-about "Fifty Shades of Grey," which is now reported to be surpassing the sales of "Harry Potter" books and has been on the New York Times bestseller list for months.

It's the first in a trilogy written by a former TV executive (warning: hells bent).

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BenCab: Young at 70

The National Artist is in a good place, literally and figuratively

BENCAB, main subject of the documentary, stands on the monumental stairs overlooking the pond.

QUEBIO in the pond is set in BenCab's post-card-pretty garden.

BENCAB by his "Tabal" collection, one of the crowd-pleasers at BenCab Museum.

I CAN'T KEEP my promise to write this Sunday about "Fifty Shades of Grey," the New York Times best-seller which women readers call "mom porn" and are lapping up so that it's outsold Harry Potter on amazon.com.

I haven't had the time to read it, but Aliya Aconcagua found the time (one night!). Her pick. Her review a very good review of it and put it to the test

of many books she has read from her early adolescence to adulthood— in essence an thorny indeed.

Instead, I'm dwelling on a most arbitrary thing Filipino women are also interested in—BenCab, the National Artist who has tremendous arts appeal.

BenCab turned 70 last April, and he's in a good place, literally and figuratively.

He has built his dream...one of his dreams—a museum/gallery/home tucked out before a mindboggling mountain of Baguio, a multi-hectare garden where he continues to grow trees, ornamentals, bamboos, coffee, herbs, really all kinds of plants. This "garden" is actually hectares of nature; paradise he wakes up to in the morning, where he relax in various parts of the city, cloistered by hard to be rain created by many changing faces through a day.

"This is my last stop," he tells us. "My last step in my life," he also told Cocoon. Just months ago when the home magazine did beautiful spreads of the BenCab museum, the photos of which BenCab himself took.

BenCab Museum has become a destination in Baguio. People go there to see the works of BenCab spanning various stages and media, as well as his collection of Philippine contemporary art, of high-hand sculptures and bowls by contemporaries, all rooted in the philosophical tenets of Baguio artists. The gallery has a schedule of exhibits and art events.

But more than building a place, BenCab has designated his awkward creation—and his community. More than a decade ago, he founded the Bati-mum Village of Baguio artists to celebrate the arts and crafts of the Mountain Province.

BenCab relishes looking back—to his startup in the '80s as a struggling artist of The Sunday Times, to his life in England where he was exposed to great art and contemporary art, to his days as a librarian who included Paul McCartney (in the late '60s when the Beatles came to Manila and McCartney chanced on BenCab's acrylic, "Fishing in Seminar") and Glen Jenkins, to his evolution of his "Tabal" that won him fund Filipino-art collectors such as Rhando and Marilou Lopez, and ultimately to his being named National Artist by Fidel Ra in 2006, at 64.

Giving back

But even as he looks back and has mixed the various eras and milieus for his art that spans a vast range of media (including pot and ink...acrylic, print, photography acrylic, sculpture), BenCab has also been giving back to the community. His estate in Benguet is actually his way of cutting for the Baguio he has learned to love, since he made his home soon in it in 1985. He has devoted his years to preserving and nurturing this environment—the mountains that were beautiful once but are now congested, polluted and in decay.

Especially now that we survive one disaster after another, the effects of this 70-year-old to take care of his environment and its people are like a breath of refreshing air. They give you hope for the country.

But the blessing is not only ours; it's of as his. BenCab is relishing his life at 70.

That afternoon last month when we finally visited but museum—our first visit since 2006—we had fun, seven fun. As we sat at Café Adrift (he built a café in the museum) and looked at the pond and the lush forest beyond it...the big world departed and form a shroud around us. There is a moment it would be gone, like a daydreamer you'd chat had been lifted so surreptitiously. In the next moment, it would be back again. It was a fleeting back-and-forth.

It was then that we understood what BenCab meant when he said that each hour of the day has a different dramatic to the world.

He led us to a trek to the waterfall to show us how its water has grown stronger into a more continuous rush since the last time we were there. He has always been proud of this waterfall. He was right—had we been dressed for the proper occasion, we could have dipped our feet, even relaxed and relaxed as in swam.

He walked us through his providence and memory of humankind, then to his (mini aviary). He also has an orchid which we didn't dare explore; vanda has garnished our beautiful ego enough.

We revisited the "tipingi" we were to be spoiled on with the Filipino, on our previous visit, he had just begun work on it.

He now harvests Arabica coffee and continues to plant trees, bamboos, exotic ornamentals. He began work on his Land 13 years ago. He hasn't stopped. He's always told us that this is a work in progress.

After we surveyed his domain, we sat down again to survey his life. How young BenCab is at 70.

How does it feel to be 70?

I'm just thinking and you like to feel it's the same. But I'm 70. My nervousness yet. One time, I get an attack of pain; it's the heart, then gasping... I was given a maintenance pill for a whole month but I suffered severe allergy. I didn't realize. So I was rushed to the ER. I was in the hospital for four days. It was a reminder that I was already 69 and turning 70.

Apart from your art, what do you think is the most valuable thing you've done?

This place. It's a dream. This mountain, from below, to painting. I didn't look for this land. The offer to buy just came. This is my last stop.

Then there's the Bati-mum Village. Before that, putting up the Bridges Gallery in the South Pillay [Cordillera]. Those days, it was exciting to visit museum. I'm the youngest of nine children.

The memorable memento? (My life in) London. Coming home during the Edsa Revolution. The National Artist Award. But also, being given the Doctorate in Humanities, honoris causa, by the College of Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines in 2009. I cried. It was as if my life was passing by.

Why have you come to love Baguio so much?

The weather. The environment. It's conducive to work. I started painting and living in Manila, but no...

What makes you young at 70? I mean, what's a BenCab diet like?

I have coffee at 5:30 a.m. Some times 6 (in the) 6:30. Then breakfast...I work until lunch, then I take more. Then I walk around the museum. I tend to the bonsai. Update.

Last year, I had a two-week art residency in Slovakia with Mexican sculptor Sebastian, Malaysian artist Ahmad Zakki Anwar. Then the three of us had a post-residency exhibit at Vasul Artist Cooperative in Singapore last June...also at the White Box Mag[azine] in Kuala Lumpur in July.

I'm doing watercolor—birds—also Edsa-inspired sculpture.

The bucket now at 70. Going abroad. I'm a late starter.

Do you notice a higher incidence of art forgery now?

Sometimes whole albums are brought to me (for authentication) and the works are pitiable. At least some or three a month. The forgers are getting better.

You're one artist with tremendous discipline and some regimen.

I got used to moving deadlines/ schedules/worked for Sunday Times.

Among the artists, who would you remember are the five major influences on your art and life?

Botong [Carlos Francisco], Arturo Luz, Manansala, Amorsolo, and my brother Antonio Calanoy. He opened doors for me. My sons' born 11 years apart. He was my "mentor."

How about the people closest to you? Wife and family?

My children (Maienti, Jasmine and Elmer), and Anton (Guillen, his longtime companion.

I realize that in my life, I've always been protected by women, growing up in a family of women. I studied in Xavier, at Ateneo. I have an aunty. My grown-up in foods (notorious in those years for gang wars). I got used to my mates receiving suitors in the house, and those were musical life's done chairs to reveal scars from self-wounds. Pathetic.

What do you wish for yourself, your family, your country?

I'm optimistic about the country under PNoy. Things are finally happening. The air sense is active. Young artists enjoy the privilege of being celebrated abroad.

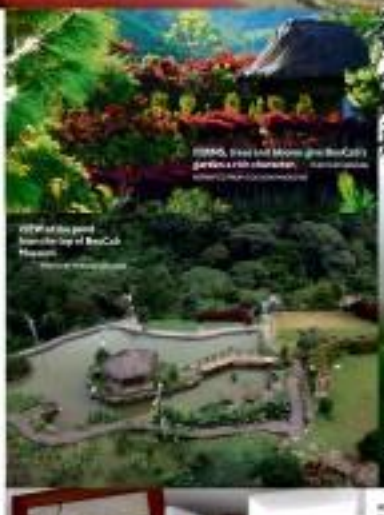
And for yourself?

I don't really look for goals. It just comes to me. Once the occasion comes, creativity comes, too.

Middle way

I remember what BenCab told me years ago, when we talked about the blessings in life. "The effort must be effortless," he said, meaning one must learn not to try too hard.

A devotee (a) chi practitioner, he repeated his philosophy: "Find the middle way; don't look yourself into a movement, or you're (to) to move on, either to advance or to step back."



TIMES, 3-foot tall bronze give BenCab's garden a rich character.

VIEW of the pond from the top of BenCab Museum.

BENGUET rice terraces a backdrop seen in BenCab's garden.

BENCAB'S early painting, "Tabal Di Bontoque" (oil on board, 1982), inspires his search in Tabal. Right, installation at Iloilo Gallery at BenCab Museum.

'Fifty Shades of Grey': A literary one-night stand

From page C2

wife and mother who (reader warning: hello!) started out as a contributor on the "Twilight" fan page. Uh-oh.

Here's more: In the author's bio, James is described as having "dreamed of writing stories that would make people laugh, cry, throw the worst front-hair to string wraps and bun plugs puzzles out and then the book cover shots like the novel as a "Goodreads Choice Awards Finalist for best literature." Yes... romance.

The pairing is chaotic: romance novel, you are rude, ungrammatical, and unbelievably get gross company CEO Christian Gray meets sweet, beautiful, innocent college student Anastasia "Ana" Steele when the interviews him for the school paper. She even trips and falls when she enters his office for the first time, and he has to help her up (swoon!). The attraction is mutual, and leads to a distressed submissive sexual relationship.

That's pretty much the gist of it. It doesn't help that the language is so clumsy it makes you balk. James is like a certain J.K. Rowling, another English-woman who launched a second career as a writer, the big difference being that Rowling knows what to do with words.

"I could probably go without saying that 'Fifty Shades of Grey' is otherwise awful," wrote editor-at-commentator Stacy Handy in Vanity Fair Daily, in his hilarious review-cum-breakdown. We fell on consequences of the dirty book."

Indeed, here Fair's books—"The Claiming of Sleeping Beauty" "Beauty's Punishment," and "Beauty's Release," published in 1983-1985—have reportedly gone back in circulation, probably sought by readers who weren't, uh, satisfied by "Fifty Shades of Grey"?)

"The prose, which originated as 'Twilight' fan fiction, is functional at best, silly at worst, the characterizations are insipid, the plotting holds stubbornly to rote college sweetheart level," Handy concluded.

Then there's Jezebel, who claims to have a high GPA and reads Thomas Hardy, can only muster such expressions as "Eeek" and "Holy crap" when she's being confused by the humor man on the planet, you're bound to get irritated. She's so star-struck by Christian Grey she still can't believe she's got him, even after their umpteenth encounter. One morning she wakes up after he sleeps over—and, she muses, "I've draped in Christian Grey's bed."

Most grossingly, she's constantly bothered by the fact that she's enjoying what's happening. Okay, so maybe the poor girl, who's a virgin when she meets Gray and just looks at him blankly, when he asks her to do what she usually does to have sex when she's feeling sexy is not to experienced. She's even got this unclean habit of referring to her "sex" (but I heard, it had a name, and it's spelled s-e-x-x-x-x). But hmmmm James made the mistake of telling the late (from her point of view) the reader has no choice but to dumb herself down.

Breathless heroines

I couldn't help but think of the romance novels of my youth when reading this supposed 21st-century story (There are eyes (Hathaway e-mail exchanges between Christian and Ana that would look right at home in a young adult novel). Barbara Cartland's breathless heroines would speak in ellipses and italics, as in, "they... couldn't... believe... that... her attraction... would... love them back?" (almost laughed out loud when, not that, but Christian stutters a clipped, "You, are, so, brave." Methinks was looking maybe deep at this point.

Gray has been labeled as "mom porn," which basically means it's more bodice-ripper than sexy-times. The rather ironic implication is that only moms with a diet of predictable, one-scheduled nights a week vanilla sex would gasp at the encounters. Indeed, some sex scenes in Fifty Shades of Grey" seems would make Christian and Ana look like Zsadzsa and Jasmine.

Most sensibly—and this bothers me—there's a hint of a happy ending. On it, the most almost wouldn't declare from the very tides of the next two novels, "Fifty Shades Darker" and "Fifty Shades Freed." (but, well, there's a chance of love conquering all, and Christian might actually develop a liking for vanilla and emotionally honest). It looks like a stand-up version of Milk and Boots, but I won't know until I do get around to reading the next two books.

All that being said, I still finished the book (albeit in one sitting—nothing to bookmark and quote on Facebook here), admittedly to see if the sex got beyond the spank-spank of the typical dominant-submissive relationship. There are no psychological explorations or delicious conflicts, really if you're looking for sexy literature, you could do much better.

If you're looking for an easy escapist read and you've never read anything like this before, however, enjoy. Or you could hold out for the movie; Universal Studios has reportedly bought the rights to the trilogy.

I actually thought of a perfect pairing for Christian Grey as in my head. Christian Bale, who played the rich, sadistic yuppie in the dreamy noir in "American Psycho," couldn't possibly take this role seriously. There again, Brett Easton Ellis, author of "American Psycho," has reportedly expressed interest in doing the screenplay, but author James has asked for some creative control/approval.

The book could be the literary equivalent of a one-night stand, though it's fun while you're there, but it's not something you'll remember the morning after, much less for a long time to come.

"Fifty Shades of Grey," "Fifty Shades Darker," and "Fifty Shades Freed" are all sold at Solidaridad Bookstore chain Inc.

Woman in a lesbian relationship falls in love with a man

DEAR EMILY,

My husband and I got married when we were just both 17 and only because I got pregnant. We had two precious children in the course of our six-year marriage. By the time our third was able to walk, my husband left me for another woman, this time 20 years his senior. She quickly arranged for the annulment of our marriage.

I was modeling before my marriage. I had the height and the figure for it. When I went back to it, I met a woman who acted as booking agent for me. After a few meetings with her, she made me know how she felt about me.

I was around many gays and lesbians in the business, but it still shocked me to be courted by one. I always had boyfriends, never a girlfriend. She pursued me in ways that made me feel really good about myself and a few months later, we started a romantic relationship.

She gave me and my kids a home, and supported me like a husband would. We traveled and she bought me expensive stuff. But two years later, she had a stroke and had to be hospitalized for three months. I brought her home to recuperate.

I took care of her for over a year and made sure I was at her beck and call at all times. She couldn't have asked for a more caring caregiver. She answered other clients to two years and felt good enough to resume control of her business.

She was so grateful to me that she treated us to a trip to the US. Our vacation was interrupted because of her headaches, but she suggested that my kids and I continue our vacation and stay with my two siblings who had homes there.

However, a few weeks after she left, I met a guy in a shopping center where I had booked two seats to have with me. He was persistent and wouldn't take no for an answer when he proposed marriage to me. He had his own business and had introduced me to his sister and mother. I continued my present relationship to him, which he called a "small bump" in my life. He told me to tell my girlfriend the truth.

I cared for my girlfriend, but I never loved her as a lover. I am not a lesbian—never had been—but I didn't have the heart to tell her the truth during our relationship. I could only answer her "I love yous" with "me, too." Whether she believed that, I never found out. I don't want to break her heart for fear that she might have a stroke again, but I cannot live like he anymore.

—Not Gay

Truth will hurt, but there are no two ways about it. What's good about being honest is, you won't have to make up stories along the way. No thinking in the dark. It's just going an honest, flowing narrative of your true feelings.

I feel very strongly going for a verdict, either 'You are only an ordinary human being, not God incarnate. You don't have the divine power to bring down people. It's late speaking if anything untoward happens to her. What you have a love story between you, you don't have to make up stories along the way. No thinking in the dark. It's just going an honest, flowing narrative of your true feelings.'

**I feel very strongly going for a verdict, either 'You are only an ordinary human being, not God incarnate. You don't have the divine power to bring down people. It's late speaking if anything untoward happens to her. What you have a love story between you, you don't have to make up stories along the way

SHOW members, some in native attire: Tran Thi Lan Anh (Vietnam), Ms. Cora Ida Sodha Hutagaol (Indonesia), Paulina del Carmen Silva Rojas (Chile), Hayden Makoski (South Africa), Zahrah Abdul Kader (Malaysia), Amina Kaleem Samrai Rani (Pakistan), Maria Reina Pas (Spain), Esther Egamba (Nigeria), Indira Kumar (India), Kim Soo-Mi (Korea), Zarah Boudaoud (Iran), Malayvieng Saisombounhom (Laos)

GEMS and pendant, pearls from Myanmar

The global-but-local bazaar that gives back—always

INTERNATIONAL Bazaar Foundation board of trustees: Rose B. Villarosa', secretary; Constantina G. Bernardo, president; Akiko Tsuno-Guerrero, ex-officio member; Mary C. Salazar, treasurer; (standing) Ada Maddagan, Carolina Buenaventura, member; Olivia Romulo, member; Margarita A. Tomboc ling, member; (photo), Pandan, vice president

By Constantina Saville Bernardo
Contributor

AS THE YULETIDE season nears, the bazaars begin!

Haven't you asked yourself: Who so many bazaars? And what makes one better than the other?

There has been more than its fair share of cool and offbeat ones. This is the International Bazaar Foundation (IBF) Bazaar of the diplomatic corps. The bazaar is on 9830 that has and continues to help a myriad of charities around the country.

This is why the tagline is so catchy: "Shop global, help local." Products the world over are sold here and, in return, proceeds go to various charities in the Philippines.

The event is never meant for profit. It began as a humble endeavor between the spouses of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and the Spouses of the Heads of Mission (SHOM) in the Philippines. Now, the International Bazaar has become a fair that sells imported and local goods and introduces the public to the projects of which are then used to finance projects that are geared to help those who are in need.

It is an eloquent testimony that bazaars no borders, no religious or conflicting interest, but simply a joint effort of diplomatic ladies that go beyond the usual cocktail parties, shoparound teas and sit-down dinners. It is the joining of hands to become a true force for good. For in the end, we all collectively want to "give back"—always.

The long-standing success of the International Bazaar can be attributed to the major support it gives to the charities of the International Bazaar Foundation Inc. These include Akbi, Tahoy, Kinga Tangu sa Ing Angat at Ing Ani (Apapi), Bahay Bituin Center; Community and Family Services International Inc. (CFSI); Coalition of Services of the Elderly Inc., Philippine Orient Foundation; Rahabilitasi sa Kanlurnan ng mga Ajta Inc. (Rakai); Dar Assinah Children's Village Foundation Inc., San Lorenzo Ruiz Home for the Elderly; and CBSUA, among others.

Now on its 9th year, the 2012 International Bazaar goes "green" again and will distribute not only reusable and eco-friendly shopping bags instead of plastic ones, as part of its continuing move to environmentally conscious and responsible shopping.

Headed by its chairperson, Gretchen V. del Rosario, wife of Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert F. del Rosario, in conjunction with the Spouses of the Heads of Missions and members of the executive committee in the Philippines, this exciting and one-of-a-kind event will be held on Sunday, Nov. 18, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at the C Pavilion 1, 2, 3 and 18, CCP Complex in Pasay City.

Board of trustees

From its inception until the present, the wife of the Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs is the overall chairperson of the International Bazaar Foundation, supported by a board of trustees. The 2012 International Bazaar Foundation board of trustees is composed of the following: Gretchen V. del Rosario, overall chairperson; Constantina G. Bernardo, president; Sylvia J. Jardines, vice president; Rose B. Villarosa, secretary; Nora C. Salazar, treasurer; board members Margarita Tomboc ling, Ada Maddagan, Carolina Buenaventura, Olivia Romulo, Akiko T. Guerrero, Marlon Cruzabella and Ivonne Ledesma.

Spouses of Heads of Mission

The BIF and SHOM, meanwhile, exist as mutual cooperation and joint decision making. The activities of the foundation are jointly assisted by the BIF and SHOM, members of which are Cecilia Tolentino Sicher (Switzerland), president; Silvia Otero (Argentina), vice president; Tran Thi Lan Hanh (Vietnam), secretary; Nadia Mat Tong), vice secretary; Elena Escalhaires (Brazil), treasurer; Isabel Aguirrebe (Nigeria), membership officer; Karina Kusumo (Indonesia), Web officer.

Aside from the finest products from around the world made available at the bazaar, there will also be special raffle prizes awarded to lucky winners. These include various appliances, hotel and restaurant vouchers, gifts from the Philippine embassies and consulates around the world, and many one-of-a-kind items.

Because of this, the 9th International Bazaar promises to be the best one yet. Join the 2012 International Bazaar by "shopping global and helping local."

For tickets (P300) and details, contact the IBF office, 6/F 2330 Department of Foreign Affairs Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City; tel. 8351322; fax 8351987; Bazaar's cashet on ground floor in Makati, Ayala Town Center, Ayala Ave. in Ortigas; or e-mail ibf.dfa@gmail.com

PRODUCTS of Turkmenistan

DIRTSCHEN V. del Rosario, overall chair of the national Bazaar Foundation Inc.

AT THE BAZAAR

INTERNATIONAL Bazaar Foundation scholars

BOARD members of the Spouses of Heads of Mission (SHOM): Esther Egamba, membership officer; Maria Dunn (Argentina), vice president; Cecilia Tolentino Sicher (Switzerland), president; Tran Thi Lan Hanh, secretary; Nadia Mat (Iraq), vice secretary

A father's grief and continuing sense of loss

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Cabahit

All the 'what if's' and 'if only's' continue to take space in a grieving parent's heart like an unwanted visitor who pops in every now and then

IT WAS a scene straight out of a movie.

It is 1976. My mother and I are visiting her friend who has just given birth at the Makati Medical Center. I am 10 and my inquisitive nature has me heading for the hospital nursery.

Pushing the steel doors, and peeping through the glass that houses the large nursery, I look and smile at all the proud-looking babies wrapped in pink and blue, evenly tucked all in a row. The long white hallway is dimly lit and my gaze falls on a solitary figure at the far end.

I recognize her, for she is my mother's good friend. I want to approach her but I take a step back. Her eyes are filled with great sadness; on she long, ugly looks at her tiny baby inside the incubator, her hand occasionally touching the glass which separates her from her child.

I stand there quietly and gaze at her from a distance.

The mother by the incubator is Helen Hamilton, my godmother. The baby is Vincent Basil Soriano, who died on Aug. 11, 1976.

His death fueled his father's speech at the funeral this past week.

Grief can do strange things to you, especially when it is unresolved. I believe this is the case of the wounds of Sen. Tito Sotto. Any parent who has lost a child will tell you that the day of their child's passing, no matter how long it has been, is always a day that carries with it the weight of sadness no words will ever express.

Senator Sotto is convinced that it was the contraceptives his wife used that led to their son's weak heart condition.

In subsequent interviews, he said that it was his mother, Dr. Herminia Sotto, and his wife's ob-gyn, the celebrated Dr. Cadness Ebcrpi Ramos, who had told him that back in 1975. Both women have passed on, and since dead women can tell no tales, I will have to take the senator's word for it.

No blaming

Perhaps his mother and doctor did say these things as a way of consoling a grieving father. But as Albert de Lavalade, himself grieving the death of a son, told his wife Joanne, "There will be no blaming." ("This is Destroying Soul, Forsworn Love and Forever"). Blaming is unproductive, stunts your grieving and holds you hostage for many years.

Guilt is a very difficult thing to live with. And although 37 years have passed, all the "what if's" and "if only's" continue to take space in a grieving parent's heart like an unwanted visitor who pops in every now and then.

Unless one confronts it head on, it will continue to come and go, affecting one's relationships and sometimes even the way one thinks.

Thirty-seven years is a lifetime, but the parent who has lost a child never forgets.

Perhaps going against the BIR bill is the senator's way of purging his guilt over Vincent's passing. Maybe this is the reason why he is very much against it.

I want to believe that it was his grief talking when he said that contraceptives were the reason for his son's congenital heart defect which eventually led to his death. After all, what parent in his right mind would use their child's death to further a cause or an agenda?

For those of us who lost children due to congenital heart disease (CHD) or to congenital defects, the senator's son's circumstance speaks to my good friend, lawyer Trixie Cruz, wrote, "all the dark places in a grieving parent's heart."

Trixie's daughter Inezza died from multiple congenital defects in 1999 but she said she never blamed anyone. My own son died because of CHD and his death had nothing to do with conception, of that I am sure.

There have been mounting accusations of plagiarism against the senator; I have been hearing my own name, none of which I would dignify.

Unfortunately, these issues do not help his case or his stand on the BIR bill.

Sadly, it now appears that the senator's grief over Vincent's passing is the one issue fueling his relentless opposition.

"The best I had we can do for those who have died is to live in such a way that they continue, beautifully in us," wrote Thich Nhat Hahn.

I wish the senator well. However, being a bereaved parent myself, I hope that he finds comfort not only for the women and children who stand to benefit from the bill he is very much against.

Why not refine it instead, rather than doom it or trash it? In so doing, he not only honors Lady Vincent's memory, but perhaps, after a long journey, he may finally find a deeper meaning to his loss.

Bright spots

On the other hand, Sen. Ping Lacson's declaration of "a total war on hunger" is a bright spot amid last week's bizarre events.

The senator, whose youngest brother passed away in 1976, has now made it his personal mission to see that no other young parents to a violent and senseless manner.

Another bright spot is Imee Sotto accepting the National Artist for Cinema award on behalf of the late Fernando Poe Jr. Had he lived, FPJ would have become 73 tomorrow, Aug. 20.

And although dead women tell no tales, in Joey Reyes' warm and wonderful film "Maisnesting Libita," they do. And oh, the tales they tell! The film is a must-see for every female above 40 years old.

I thoroughly enjoyed the story-telling and outstanding acting by a stellar cast led by Judy Ann Santos, Janice de Belen, Agot Isidro and Iza Calzado.

The dialogue is very witty (though intense) must be added that the movie has some problem(s). Women will find themselves in this film. It is rated A by the Cinema Evaluation Board, and NN-13 by the MTRCB.

Follow the author on Twitter @cathybabao or e-mail cathybabao@gmail.com

"THE PHANTOM of the Opera" cast at Diamond Hotel: Business Development manager Edgar Ibarle, Public Relations manager Melanie Pellerino, musical supervisor Guy Simpson, Dondi Ong as Raoul, general manager Rosmon Santiago, Jonathan Roxmouth as the Phantom, Claire Lynn as Christine, Anthony Downing as Raoul, Sales and Marketing director Sandrina Robles, deputy financial comptroller Aida Lat, Novotel Christine manager George Benzon

PHILIPPINE Airlines' Lynn Hubbard and Yara Musalli of Advertising and Promotions; Guy Simpson, Dondi Ong, Jonathan Roxmouth, Claire Lynn and Anthony Downing; Philippine Airlines' Ria Dominguez of Marketing and Kit Javier of Program Development and Communications

VIETNAM Emcee Infinity Marketing Team: Lawrence Mercado, Candy Quijada, Guy Simpson, Dondi Ong, Jonathan Roxmouth, Claire Lynn, Anthony Downing, Rem Tsai, Agnes Garcia

Time for masks, magic and the music of the night

UNILEVER's Peter Cowan, Philippine Sheng

LOUIS XIII's Christophe Bourrie and Joey Pineda

SUNNY Bu with Louis XIII's Joey Pineda

DLSMOD's Alain Yole Lopez and Leisure and Resort World Corp.'s Renato Muñoz

BONCHARIET Bryan Lim and his dad Per Lim at Lucky Chinatown Mall

CHEF JJ Yido and Nanette Jordan of "Pinoy Eats World"

SECRETARY of Trade and Industry Greg Domingo, Sea Princess, MaDe Inn Kenneth Yang

"THE PHANTOM of the Opera" event is an and is a highly contagious! Meeting the cast once again got me all excited. After watching them in South Africa a few months back, I am all charged up to see Broadway's longest-running musical live in Manila at the Cultural Center of the Philippines starting Aug. 25.

The cast and crew of "The Phantom of the Opera" were introduced to the press at a luncheon at Diamond Hotel, their official residence in Manila. Leading actor Jonathan Roxmouth, as the Phantom, and Anthony Downing, as Raoul, were present, as was budding lady Claire Lynn, as Christine. Claire is an Australian soprano who will make her concert debut in Manila.

The musical is presented by Emcee Infinity and Cinflonik, in conjunction with Philippine Airlines. Musical Director Jhay Mesquita introduced the talents of local musicians who will be leading up the international cast and orchestra.

We had a short chat and I shared with them some contacts for shopping, like the Mommy by Marilen Lorenzo and House of Lanvel by fashion designer Raju Lanvel. Shopping is definitely more fun in the Philippines—and cheaper, too!

The talented Filipino actor Dondi Ong showed the world once a couple of his powerful voice and impressed all. Dondi was class valedictorian at the UP College of Music, where he graduated magna cum laude. He will surely make the country proud.

Diamond Hotel is offering several room and dinner packages for a memorable "The Phantom of the Opera" experience, as well as additional perks for ticket holders (see www.diamondhotel.com.ph for details).

"The Phantom of the Opera" in Manila is produced by Lunchbox Theatrical Productions, David Atkins Enterprises, 40 Definition Radio and Concertnet, in association with The Really Useful Group. (Tickets are available at Ticketworld, tel. 8919999; www.ticketworld.com.ph.)

Smart Infinity very nicely won our Gala Night tickets for the Aug. 30 show, which should just give me enough time to whip up a grand opera ball gown. All this just to impress boyfriend-band linguist Wim.

Men have it so much easier. My hubby Dennis just has to pack one of his suits and he is all done. He won't miss this show, unlike the recent concert of Sting for Peace at the Smart-Araneta Coliseum when he was out of town. For that show, I gave Wilson of Omnicon Productions a thumb for tickets.

I have enough time to whip up a grand opera ball gown for my date with 'The Phantom of the Opera'

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Sell-out affair

Sting for Peace was a sell-out affair. The entire coliseum was shouting, "Shout!" as the band members left the stage. Of course, the encore was down for, "Shout."

Ukrainian Cari Smith and Iceland vocalist were blown away with the exuberant crowd. They also announced that all the proceeds from the sales of concert merchandise would go to the Philippine Red Cross for flood victims. Now that's something to shout about!

Exclusive dinner party

So many grand occasions are being celebrated in the city. One of them was the exclusive dinner party that Wellington Sheng, chair of Antonnella Motors Corp., hosted with the heads of Louis XIII Grande Cherie pagnac Cognacs. Dare of the most exclusive cognac brands from the House of Remy Martin, Louis XIII was served to Peruvian ambassador at the plush Ferrari Showroom at The Fort.

Louis XIII is a rare luxury spirit, widely considered as the "king of cognacs," and using only grapes from the Grande Champagne territory of Cognac, France. Every drop of Louis XIII is placed in special crystal decanters meticulously handcrafted by Baccarat and shipped with a gold full-cork top and a matching crystal stopper specific to each bottle in a presentation box.

Master chef JJ Yido prepared a scrumptious dinner matched only by the quality of the liquor. Anny Pineda, commercial manager of Remy Cointreau International, told me they were happy to work together with Ferrari, describing it as a marriage of an exotic car and a luxurious liquor.

The evening's highlight was the special sampling of Louis XIII Grande Champagne Cognac, led by Wellington Sheng and Christophe Bourrie from Remy Cointreau International. They gave us all pointers on how best to appreciate this rare luxury cognac. Among the guests were Primex Trade International executives James De Divine, Yogi Singler, Raul Sebastian and Ron Kahn.

Louis XIII Grande Champagne Cognac will also be served at our annual Red Cherry Gala this Oct. 12. The Red Ball this year features fashion designer Cary Santiago. I recall that at last year's Red Ball, the winning bidder of the special auction of the Louis XIII chair Wellington Sheng, chair of Antonnella Motors Corp., hosted with the heads of Louis XIII Grande Champagne Cognac. Dare of the most exclusive cognac brands from the House of Remy Martin, Louis XIII was served to Peruvian ambassador at the plush Ferrari Showroom at The Fort.

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LOUIS XIII TASTING: Eric Kuhn, Noel Sebastian, Yogi Singler, James DeVivier, Joey Pineda, Christophe Bourrie, Wellington Sheng

MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim, Megaworld chair and CEO Andrew Tan, President Ayalino, Megaworld first vice president Kevin Tan, Manila Rep. Dennis Rogeing, Megaworld director Katherine Tan

CITIBANK's Anthony Thomas, Cecille Fonacier, Sea Princess, Sergio Zanardi, Boo Tan, Francis Lumen of Concentrax, Judith Zayra

RACHEL Alejandro, Marlen Nieves

HYBAL DeMauro, Mother Lily Monteverde

SEXY Chef guests Cielo Buaki and Jessica Angel

JAJU Cleanse couple Dante and Rae Ramos with Sea Princess

AMANDA Loring Lily Yose Amanda Griffin with Jaju Juice

MACHO, chef Boris Alejandro, with Gretchen Fullido of ZESHH's Tokwa'tofu

Sexy chef

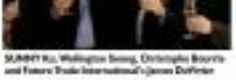
Speaking of restaurants, check out The Sexy Chef, a health food catering service under CBC Global Inc., headed by chef Myrna Debbaura and her two daughters, singer-actress Rachel Alejandro and chef Remi Alejandro-Bonarbeck. The Sexy Chef delivers meals for various diets, including South Beach, Paleo, Weight Loss Resistance Program and the hot, new diet program in town, Eat Clean Detox Plan, plus formerly imported from Jaju Cleanse.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the announcement of their new partnership with Sexy Solutions of Beth Monfred Group. The Sexy Chef plus Sexy Solutions. What's not to like?

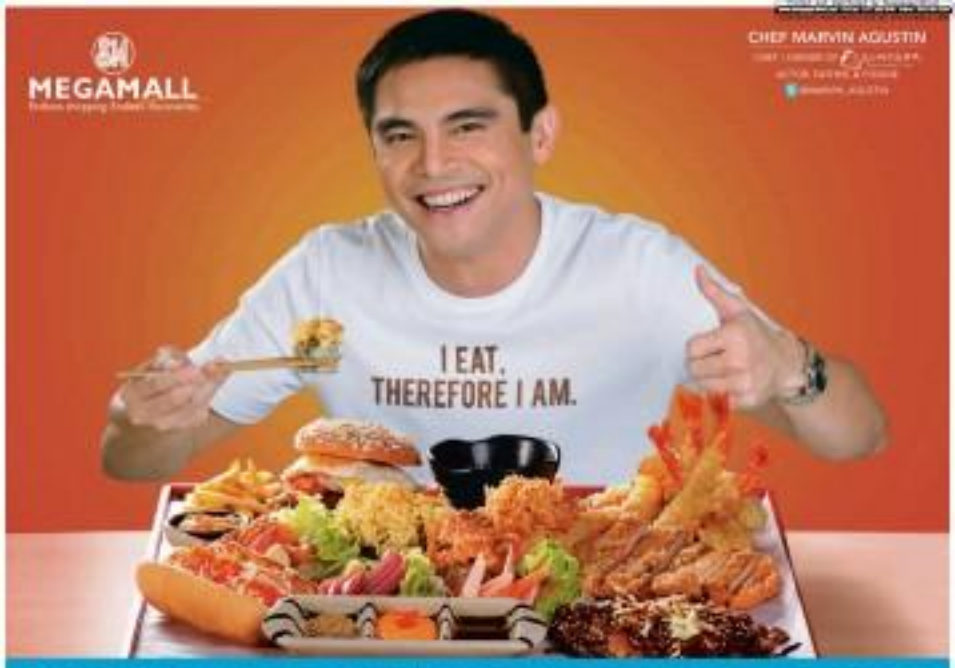
Follow @sexychefcbc on Twitter or e-mail her at sexychefcbc@magnet.ph.net.ph.

RESORTS World head Andrew Tan with members of Lions Hin Goo Association at the opening of Lucky Chinatown Mall

LOUIS XIII brand ambassador Christophe Bourrie with James De Vivier and Peter Cowan



SUNNY Bu, Wellington Sheng, Christophe Bourrie and Future Trade International's James DeVivier



MEGA F%oD SALE | AUGUST 17, 18, 19, 2012

FOOD FIESTA

Over 100 restaurants go on sale with exciting discounts and offers.

FOOD TRIP

Every Php100 minimum purchase entitles you a chance to win 1 of 4 food trips for 2 to Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, or Hongkong. Visit the drop-off booths at SM Supermarket A, D, and at the Event Center.

FOOD FAIR

Visit the Foodie Fest by SM Supermarket at the Event Center. Sample special recipes that you can recreate at home. Catch Mega Food Tripping, an event hosted by Karen Pamintuan featuring Lifestyle Network's celebrity chefs Sharwin Tee, Hyleo Le Roux, and Sabrina Arbaiza on August 18.

SUPERMARKET

MegaDine

Cassie and Dino, our favorite foodies, are on a world culinary tour – inside SM Megamall! Their mall-wide food trip takes them from neon-lit Tokyo streets to the exotic locale of Persia, with side trips in between to sample dishes from other cultures. Throughout their 'globe-trotting,' the duo documents their discoveries, Instagram-ing their sceptacle and comments in real time to the delight of their incessant roaming followers.

cassie
SunoSam
Lower Ground Floor, SM Megamall Building A

dino
Dulcinea
4/F SM Megamall Bridgeway

dino
Tong Yang
4/F Mega Atrium at SM Megamall

dino
Racks
4/F SM Megamall Bridgeway

cassie
The Kebati Factory
4/F Mega Atrium at SM Megamall

cassie
C2 Classic Cuisine
4/F Mega Atrium at SM Megamall

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Sunday LIFE STYLE

Sexy. Stimulating. Sage. Survivor

SHARING THE VOICE OF AGE AND WISDOM

Contributing Editor Chit Roces

JRS EXPRESS

YOUR PARTNER IN TIME

CHINESE Embassy Consul General Shen Zhi Cheng; Zest Air president Alfredo Yao; DOT Assistant Secretary and chief of staff Eugenio Ilan; Zest Air chair Donald Dee; Undersecretary Cristina Pardilla; BOI chair; and Mayor John Yap, Municipality of Malay, during the Cebu–Jinjing ceremony that formally launched Zest Air's maiden flight to Shanghai, China

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Zesty way to fly

ZEST AIRWAYS is the best way to fly to Shanghai (which is the new Hong Kong for shopping and sightseeing) at a base airfare of only P1,448. There are four quick steps to getting onboard its new jets.

Log on to www.flyzest.com and choose your date of departure. Zest Airways flies to Shanghai four times a week—Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. There, provide passenger details and confirm your flight. The last step is to provide payment via credit card.

It is a two-eight flight from 9MH 3, and the return is earlier early in the morning, but for the seasoned traveler, this means no airport crowds.

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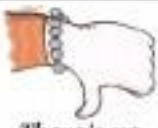


There's no makeover for bad breeding

HOW DO you make a good, generous heart part of the makeover? Problem is, you can't.

At our ob-chi lunch, the women were talking about this high-profile socialite (she became such after marrying into wealth), who was the talk among hair and makeup stylists.

Known for her expensive jewelry, she engages the services of stylist, dragging them out of town, to the resort of her choice. Their work done, she made them disembark so they wanted to be paid—in cash or in token?

Incredulous, the stylists opted for cash. What a no-brainer. Styling is their work, and they seek to get paid.

The proper—and classy—thing to do, said one matron at that lunch, would have been for the socialite to pay the professional his—and give a token of appreciation.

Such stinginess would have passed unnoticed, if only the socialite didn't single Inday, mismagandang budhist (especially A-record one was treated as one of the biggest of the year.

Again, breeding. No makeover job can fix that.

Why anger always hurts us

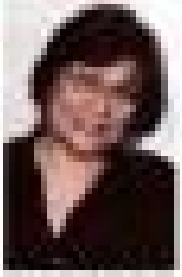
The philosopher Seneca advises that the greatest remedy for anger is delay. Hayley Mellon discovers

HEY CHEW MOON

Last legs

Love and power among the 'conquistadors'

Journalism 101



Lucky Chinatown Grand Opening Activities

St. Agnes Academy of Legazpi City marks centennial; College of the Holy Spirit to turn 100 next year

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barcenas

WHEN I WAS writing about the 150 years of the Vincentian community in the Philippines, I came to appreciate more what our priests and nuns are doing to bring the people closer to God through education and charity work.

Another milestone is the 100th anniversary of St. Agnes Academy in Legazpi City where some of my friends studied, such as Lolita Nicolas Lewis, Imelda Nicolas, Cecile Gonzalez of the Miss Phil Wide Travel, Tribune lifestyle editor Glinda Sobrevi, Mary Ann Waterfield and Legazpi Vice Mayor Noemi Rosero.

Also marking a milestone is the College of the Holy Spirit, which recently opened celebrations for its 100th year in 2013.

St. Agnes Academy recently gave recognition to its 100 most outstanding alumni, including Filipino-American billionaire philanthropist Loida Nicolas Lewis and dentist Ourlda M. Nicolas, chair of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas.

Nicolas-Lewis established The Lewis College in Batangas City in 1999 – from which 1,000 students benefit.

The Nicolas sisters spent part their elementary and high school years as nuevas, living with Governor Benedicto (seen behind St. Agnes, which is some 50 kilometers away from Sorsogon where they both grew up). Benedicto experiments on fear-and is the book "Behind the Walls, Life of Converse Girls," published by Anvil Publishing Inc.

History

St. Agnes Academy was founded in 1912. It was formerly known as Academia de Sta. Ines. It is the oldest Catholic school in the province of Albay.

Batch '65 and Batch '67 were the basis of the celebration held last May 6.

As another century unfolds, St. Agnes Academy renews its commitment to the cause of children and women's rights, social responsibility and social transformation guided by its founder St. Benedict's motto, "Ora et Labora" (Pray and Work), and the saying Resilience are at the end of an unavoidable, "Dios Mabalos, Dios Mapalagyo." ("Thank you, God rewards you. God will continue to bless you.)

Holy Spirit sisters

Meanwhile, it was in 1913 when four Dominican nuns opened millenarian mission to answer the call of the Sept congregation to "sail" to an unknown island called the Philippines and to establish a missionary school and congregation "Misioneras to in "nations."

These four nuns would be puzzled to know that a century later, their efforts have produced a long-standing institution that is the College of the Holy Spirit in Mendiola near Malacañang.

The Mpd nuns reached Luzon, Bicol here, much later and the school they built there was where my friends and I studied from kindergarten up to high school. It was called then the Holy Ghost Academy; now it's known as Holy Spirit Academy. My aunts studied here, and my four sisters who are daughters of my late brother Abraham Cheng did, too.

There is something about growing up under the guidance and direction of nuns. We were taught how to behave; we made us that are more aware of our good manners in any situation. The knowledge that there is God who will always be there for us helped us cope when we went out into the world after graduation.

For the centennial of the Holy Spirit 'nuns' school in Mendiola, there will be a three-day official program starting Feb. 1, 2013, with a homecoming on the ONSM campus and a centennial gala on Feb. 3.

All Dominican are requested to contact their class representatives to find out how their respective classes will be involved in ensuring a successful celebration.

Indie movie premiere

The premiere showing of the indie film "Mahalang Anon Mahalang Gabi," directed by Irene Nice Guevara, will be at the Music Museum on Sept. 4, 8 p.m. TV host singer Abby Asunto will lead in the singing of the National Anthem. She will launch her first album during the premiere.

Abby is no ordinary performer. The daughter of actress Veronica Jones and Marcelo "Rey" Asunto, Abby has suffered from Alopecia Areata, an autoimmune disease that causes hair to fall out.

"I wrote a song about inner beauty," she said. "I will sing it and shoot a music video for it without hair."

Our Lady of La Leche exhibit

Different images of Our Lady of La Leche are on exhibit at the San Juan de Dios Hospital until Aug. 31 to mark Breastfeeding Month.

The devotion to Our Lady underlies the belief in being connected to Mary. Dahlia, a parishioner of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Philadelfia Village, Las Piñas, and a member of the Cofradía de Nuestra Señora de Soledad de Pe'ña Negra.

The Cofradía, Nuestra Señora de Soledad de Pe'ña Negra.

The exhibition, which runs until Sept. 31, is open to the public.

I used to love the rain

Jane Keithley Castro

I USED TO love the rainy season. I say "used to," because after the horrors of the past few floods, it would seem insensitive to say I still do. But I have so many memories of typhoon seasons.

First was the thrill of having classes suspended! Like clockwork...the first typhoon of the season would be around the first or second week after classes opened, and what a joy to have another holiday right away! This would be repeated in the next few months, and there was something so comforting about being able to snuggle in bed knowing that you had a day off from class.

In those days, we didn't have to worry about pollution or acid rain, so after much begging, being given permission to take a bath in the rain was such a treat. In comic-and cheesy, I would line up with friends to collect rainwater in my tubs from the ducts or downspouts.

Then there was the food. What is it about rainy days that boost your appetite? Sinigang with rice, chopped fried garlic with rainwater, and canning, lang, garnish, tapa or tocino, champorado... Hmm.

Then in the afternoon, peanut butter sandwiches on fresh, soft white bread with the crusts lopped off.

As I grew older, an extra incident in the running of a rainy season occurred. I would rush to the grocery to buy food, then stay in bed reading as the wind rattled the windows.

Oh yes, we had floods, too. I remember listening to radio reports of the San Juan River overflowing and the Westside until quite pinned beating down the streets, of landslides on Boston Road, and the "ayaw ayaw" that inundated the Cubao swamp and cut off Manila from the north.

But the worst floods began the imagination.

Horror

Since I am bedridden most of the time, the sounds of the cable system has been my closest "companion," and to horror I would watch the news.

I'm not sure if I'm the only one who feels this way, but I get very irritated when I hear the weatherman say, "Expect heavy rains in the next few hours." Or "Expect heavy rains in the next few days." Or "Expect heavy rains in the next few weeks." Or "Expect heavy rains in the next few months." Or "Expect heavy rains in the next few years." Or "Expect heavy rains in the next few decades." Or "Expect heavy rains in the next few centuries." Or "Expect heavy rains in the next few millennia." Or "Expect heavy rains in the next few eons." Or "Expect heavy rains in the next few eternities." Or "Expect heavy rains in the next few infinities." Or "Expect heavy rains in the next few..."

Then the weatherman says, "Expect heavy rains in the next few..." and I get very irritated when I hear the weatherman say, "Expect heavy rains in the next few..." Or "Expect heavy rains in the next few..." Or "Expect heavy rains in the next few..." Or

Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE

■ 'Fifty Shades of Grey': A literary one-night stand /C1

"If we hold on together, I know our dreams will never fade."

How renowned perfumer Francis Kurkdjian designs his scents

'I dress men and women with my perfume, wrap them with my art and with my love'

By Carmencita S. Sison
Contributor

"I'M NOT obsessed by fragrances per se," says perfumer Francis Kurkdjian. "It's simply a way for me to express myself."

Ten years ago, Kurkdjian opened a house of bespoke fragrances, the first to do so. In 2005, he met his would-be business partner, Marc Duye, who was ready to quit his job as a partner at the professional services firm Ernst & Young. Around them, a small team soon formed, and Maison Francis Kurkdjian officially opened in 2009.

Kurkdjian's signature creation, called "Amyris" (from the Greek word *myrsine*, meaning "aromatic fragrant"), is the most recent addition to the brand's "simple scents."

"The range is like creating a wardrobe," says Kurkdjian. "You go from casual to evening to couture. And in my vision, what's missing is a daily ready-to-wear type of perfume."

"Amyris for women is basically a tribute to the modern woman, a woman on the go, just like my client."

In both versions – for women and men – the Amyris duo is a light and fresh scent, derived from amyris, a little less from its musks, and iris, the solution of Florentine flowers.

"It's long-lasting and effortless – something that's also hard to achieve in fashion and style," says Kurkdjian.

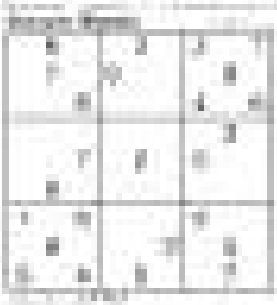
"I dress men and women with my perfume, wrap them with my art and with my love."

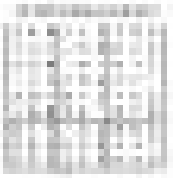
Curated

In the Philippines, the brand has found its home in the sleek yet chaste

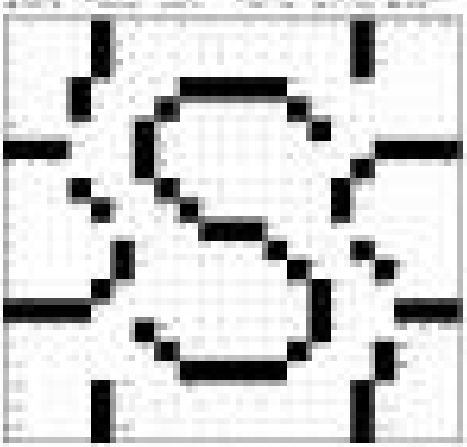
NOW RENOWNED /2

SUDOKU





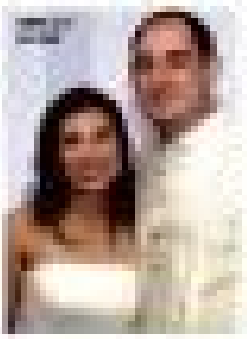
Sunday Crossword

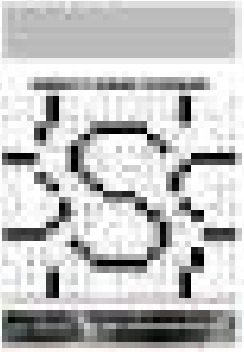


Swatch by Moby

How renowned perfumer Francis Kurkdjian designs his scents

Cebu witnesses its most elegant wedding in years





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Int'l premieres for 2 Pinoy indies

TWO FILMS from the last Cinemalaya are preparing for international premieres. Dante Gauddula's documentary "Harana" will compete in October in the Wide Angle section of the Busan Int'l in Korea, and up to 4 Hawaii. Chuck Gutierrez's short film "Shun" will be screened at the Thai Short Film and Video Festival in Bangkok, ongoing till Aug. 26. Meanwhile, Jun Lana's "Bwakaw," Cinemalaya audience prize winner Chi Atienza' Showcase), was chosen by Via Mizuno Films inc. international distribution. "Bwakaw" is headed for Toronto in September. —Rayan Zac Olayo Jr.

CHEER FACTOR

Cutie Hunk's phone studded with pics of… fellow hunks

By the Entertainment Staff

NEWS FLASH: Enough Cutie Frank (CF) was discreet.

On a long road trip, CF1 was scared bombs Restless Spy (RS), who couldn't help noticing the phone in CF's iPhone.

There have been persistent rumors about CF's sexuality but, to his credit, CF has handled the issue/chatter admirably well.

So RS was shocked to see that CF's phone was studded (pun intended) with snapshots of other hunks in various states of undress!

Some pics were tame enough, RS said—pics hogging by the poolside or exercising it out in the gym. But one was way too incriminating—a naked man in bed.

Confirmed!

Fag Hag's karma

Control-freak Personality (CF) surrounds herself with gay men. She has styled herself as a gay-friendly celebrity of sorts.

However, CF is not well-liked in some circles because of her social-climbing, publicity-hounding and money-grubbing ways.

Well, CF seems to have gotten the ultimate comeuppance. She is romantically involved with a Hunky boy who's said to be a closet case.

Just desserts are hardly ever sweet.

Dubious scandal

An X-rated video is circulating on the Net.

The video shows Newbie Hunk (NH) in action with a female companion.

Instead of becoming a sensational scandal, the intrigue was perfunctorily and universally ignored.

Talk about collective deaf-ness.

Could it be because discerning observers plainly see that the controversy was concocted to hype NH's latest project?

Hmmm!

Vacation fears love

Now stars can issue denials on Twitter.

Former beauty queen Stella Cadaverous has been romantically linked with fellow TV5 star Derek Ramsay in showbiz columns.

Last week, Stella's camera effectively extinguished the raging rumor: "Funny how I'm being linked to this and that boy guy… but I'm not in a relationship. I have substantial total Ricemakers Arthur long, okay?"

For good measure, she explained: "Wala po ako sa mood. And when you're not in the mood, you can't force it."

Show for Susan

Singer Dulce is helping fellow Cebuana chanteuse Susan Fuentes, who is very sick, by mounting a benefit show.

Entitled "Unibay… A Moment for Susan," the fundraiser will be held on Aug. 30 at Bridal Mosaics in Quezon City.

"Her hospital bills are piling up. Friends in the music industry are pooling their resources for Susan's medical needs," Dulce wrote on her Facebook page.

The concert will feature various artists. Call 370-7207 for tickets.

Zanjoe's dream

Unknown to many, Zanjoe's favorite sport is golf and, like many golfers, he dreams of becoming known in the field.

"I think everyone dreams of joining an international competition," he says. "But I'm not ready; I'm just having fun right now. Golf is very relaxing, too."

Asked if his girlfriend, Bea Alonzo also plays golf, he replies, "She tries… during her free time."

Iron Man hurt

LOS ANGELES—"Iron Man" star Robert Downey Jr. injured an ankle on the set of the third film in the superhero franchise, causing delays in production, Marvel Studios said Thursday.

Downey, 47, who plays billionaire playboy-turned-superhero Tony Stark in the "Iron Man" and "Avengers" movies, hurt his ankle while performing a stunt during filming of "Iron Man 3" in South Carolina, Marvel said in a statement.

"Iron Man 3," due in theaters next year, will reunite Downey with Gwyneth Paltrow, Don Cheadle and Jon Favreau, while Ben Kingsley will play villain The Mandarin.

Downey will also reprise his superhero suit for "The Avengers 2," which will be released in May 2015. —Reuters

Rihanna in retrospect

LOS ANGELES—A sobbing Rihanna has told Oprah Winfrey she felt protective of boyfriend Chris Brown after he beat her up more than three years ago and was concerned that revenge would think of him as a monster.

The "Umbrella" singer, in a rare emotional TV interview set to air on Thursday, detailed her thoughts about the highly publicized 2009 assault.

Rihanna told Winfrey in the interview, excerpts of which were released on Thursday: "At stages as I was—in anger and hurt and betrayed…I just felt like he made that mistake because he needed help. And who's going to help him?"

Winfrey interviewed Rihanna in the singer's Barbados

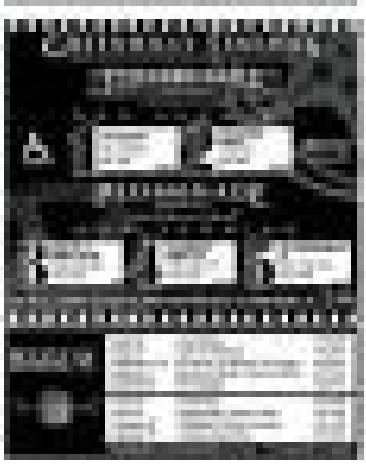
CONTD. P2

ZANJOE Marudo

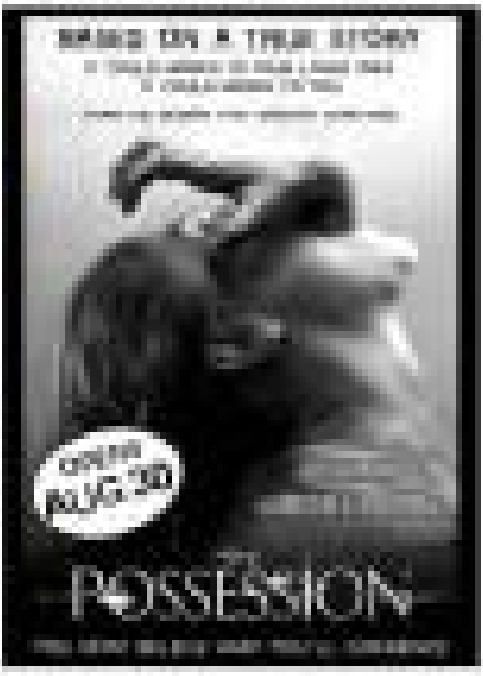
DULCE

GRACE Lee

Reality bites back: Docus are in



Cute Hunk's phone studded...



MOVIE TIMI

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The 'Potter' show that J.K. Rowling was turned away from /G4

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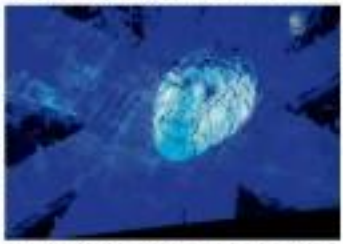
VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



JOHN LEGEND sculpture erected during the "Imagine" tribune at the 2012 London Olympics closing ceremony

THE OPENING ceremonies of the 2012 Olympics in London were so triumphantly moving, creative, exciting and inspirational that, right after they were concluded, we caught ourselves wondering "What will they do for an encore?" And: "How can they possibly top that?"

Well, early last Monday morning, we woke up before the crack of dawn to watch the Games' closing this—and we had our answer.

Very judiciously the organizational committee's creative think tank didn't try to surpass their awesome achievement two or three weeks ago; instead they did something else. They threw a big, brassy bash, scampering and jetting cavorty-quirky fun to thousands of colorfully costumed happily happy athletes, fans and revelers from all over the world!

Medley of songs

So, instead of amazing artistic concepts that bristled with British wit and brilliant creativity, the closing ceremonies opted for a medley of songs that emotionally "massaged" everyone with their meaningful lyrics and irresistible grooves.

One of the highlights of the long program, instructively enough, was John Lennon's jaw-rousing anthem, "Imagine."

The pride of place that it was given in the show's unfolding super-intro was in itself an exciting statement that placed global sports within a new and more valuable context than previously "imagined" possible. Not only did sports' journeys, struggles, determinations and glory for winning but they are also capable of bonding hearts, and making the fractured and fractious world truly if temporarily, one.

An athlete from wherever competitive nations formed on seeing new records in their chosen sports, they "forgot" sense of the racist, political and economic issues that had rendered them in the distant and recent past.

Sports and arts

Even better, the use of "Imagine" as a sort of thematic musical subtext for the whole celebration reminded viewers and listeners, not just about the power of sports to heal and unite, but also about the corollary ability of music and the arts to effect their equally beneficent psychic balm on mankind.

Most of the time, sports and the arts travel on separate arcs and axes. In fact, in some people's views, sports focus on the body while the arts affect the soul, as hardly ever can the twain converge.

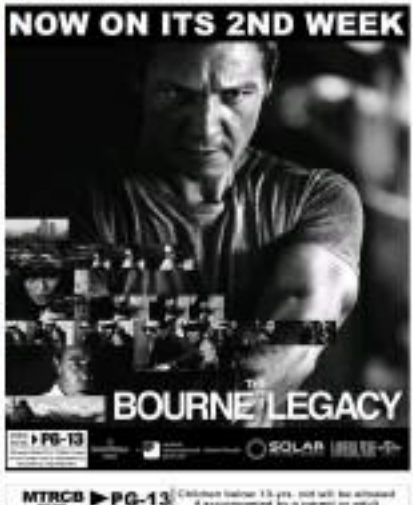
At the Olympics however, they can, become one, with the arts celebrating human physical achievement, and consciously transforming it into a truly inspirational experience.

The theme song's title, "Imagine," sums up this fulsome cosmopolitan/cultural power of the arts to vividly transform the physically heroic human being.

Man is striving not just due to his physique, but also because he can use his imagination to make himself even better and more powerful than he already is!

In olden days, this essential fusion was summed up by the oft-quoted Latin phrase: "Mens sana in corpore sanoto essenci mind in a healthy body."

At the London Olympics, Lennon's beautifully inspirational anthem gave that truism a more current and vivid veracity, as the Games brilliantly concluded their celebration of Man in his amazing totality—body, mind, heart and soul!



OPENS AUGUST 22 IN CINEMAS NATIONWIDE

MTRCB PG-13

THE LOVE TEAM OF THE NEW GENERATION IN THEIR MUCH-AWAITED MOVIE

GRADED 'B' BY THE CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD

Hilarious 'Harry Potter' parody coming to Manila

Even J.K. Rowling wanted to see the show's sold-out run in Edinburgh, but was turned away

LOS ANGELES—A loving, bawdy "Harry Potter" parody that began as a five-minute street show in the United Kingdom is coming to Manila. "Potted Potter," which earned a 2012 Olivier Award nomination for best entertainment and family show, is currently entertaining audiences at the Little Shubert Theater in New York where we recently saw it.

Daniel "Dan" Clarkson and Jefferson "Jeff" Turner, who jointly wrote the parody of the seven "Harry Potter" books, take out to the extended off-Broadway stop of the show.

Jeff plays Harry while Dan plays virtually all the other characters in a loose romp through J.K. Rowling's wildly popular book series.

They draw laughs by using simple props—lots of wigs, costumes, masks and hand puppets—and creative gimmicks to evoke some of the highlights in the world of Hogwarts wizardry, including a live game of Quidditch that the audience gets to join. Even Julia (who are not big fans of the books) are bound to have a good time.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Andrew V. Nicholas

Manila show

Since Dan and Jeff have no way to New York because the show has been extended there, two other performers—Gary Tsuchiya and Anne Britton—will star in the Manila production that runs from Aug. 25 to Sept. 2 in the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati.

Backstage after their well-received performance at the Little Shubert, Jeff said it took him and Dan a long time to cast the Manila production. Jeff admitted very glad about finding Gary and Anne. "They are very good choices," he quipped.

Dan, a tall bundle of energy onstage, said finding performers to play their roles in the show's Philippine stop was a "bizarre thing to do. We had no real body experience. They are better than us. We have seen them do stuff. We worked with them. It's like having a baby and we have them with somebody."

Both Dan and Jeff always couldn't believe that the five-minute street show—which a bookstore commissioned them to do to entertain fans waiting for the midnight release of the sixth "Potter" book in 2005—has taken them to 69. "That was just seven years ago," Jeff said. "We got paid 100 pounds."

The British duo went on to develop a full-length show, which took them around the UK, including London and Edinburgh.

"Every stage, we sold out," Dan recounted. "We sold out in Scotland. We went to the West End. We thought, it can't get better than this. Then we took ourselves to New York."

He laughed as he noted the show's success, even though "It's just two guys running around." But audiences are falling for the simple charms of "Potted Potter" which has reached Toronto, Australia, Asia and South Africa.

Sold out

Even Rowling supposedly wanted to see the show at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland, but she was turned away. Dan said that, after the show, they found the box office girl adamant in tears. She said that this woman came to see the show and I turned her down because we were sold out." Later, they realized that it was the writer herself—author, no less.

"She now keeps our seats on hold so she can come and see the show anytime," Dan said.

What if Emerald Rachelle comes? Jeff replied, "He would be mobbed if he came." Jeff added in jest, "He would be safe in a cage."

Dan noted that he's not performing in the Manila production. When he and his family lived in Hong Kong, they vacationed often in the Philippines. He remembered tasting the "best mangoes in the world" and his body can't stop all red after a swim in a hot springs resort.

"It's a beautiful country with white sand beaches," Dan said. "I loved being there."

The two guys plan to incorporate some pop references to the Philippines in the Manila show. But they will, of course, keep the British "Potter" spirit.

Like brothers

Dan and Jeff have the easy camaraderie of two friends who have been working together for years. Jeff said, "We get along very well. We have done the show 1,200 times. We know when to leave each other alone." Dan added, "We are like brothers. There is love and protection."

On the night we watched, the two Brits somehow still managed to make each other laugh because of the show's improvisational, spontaneous spirit.

Jeff stressed that it is important for both of them to keep it a "family show." Dan added that it's ensure. Sadly a loving parody of the books. "We don't want to disrespect," he said. "Everything we do comes from a place of love. We pay homage to those characters."

He asked those if they have seen Emma Watson, Rupert Grint and Daniel Radcliffe (who starred in the "Potter" movies), to see the show when it comes to Manila. "We'll be there," he said. "We'll be in the front row."

"POTTED Potter" performers Jeff Turner (left) and Daniel Clarkson

MEGAWORLD Lifestyle Malls
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

NEWPORT CINEMAS
1 Diary of a Wimpy Kid 3 9:00am • 11:00am • 1:00pm 3:00pm • 5:00pm
The Bourne Legacy 7:00pm • 9:30pm • 12:10am 2:40am • 5:20am
2 The Expendables 2 10:10am • 11:20am • 1:30pm 4:50pm • 7:40pm • 10:20pm 12:30am • 2:40am • 6:00am 7:00am
3 The Reunion 9:00am • 11:20am 2:10pm • 4:40pm
The Expendables 2 in 3D 7:20pm • 9:40pm
4 The Reunion 10:40am • 1:20pm • 4:30pm 7:20pm • 10:20pm • 12:30am
BOURNE LEGACY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
1 Diary of a Wimpy Kid 3 1:20pm • 3:40pm • 6:00pm
Brave 9:20pm • 12:40am
2 The Bourne Legacy in 2D 2:00pm • 5:00pm 8:00pm • 11:00pm
3 The Expendables 2 12:30am • 3:00pm • 5:30pm 8:00pm • 10:55pm
4 The Reunion 2:30pm • 5:00pm 7:35pm • 10:05pm
Brave 12:00pm • 2:10pm • 4:20pm
5 The Bourne Legacy 6:30pm • 10:30pm
6 The Expendables 2 in 3D 12:30pm • 2:50pm • 5:10pm 7:30pm • 10:00pm
7 The Bourne Legacy 1:30pm • 4:20pm 7:10pm • 10:00pm

Ayala Cinemas
CINEMAS
1 The Reunion 10:10am • 12:30pm • 2:50pm 5:10pm • 7:25pm • 10:00pm
2 Insparable (Cinema Movie Festival) 11:00pm • 3:20pm 7:30pm
The Expendables 2 in 2D 1:10pm • 5:20pm • 8:30pm
3 The Expendables 2 in 2D 10:20am • 12:40pm 3:00pm • 5:20pm 7:40pm • 10:00pm
4 Diary of a Wimpy Kid 3 12:10pm • 11:50am 2:40pm • 4:20pm
The Bourne Legacy 8:10pm • 8:20pm • 11:00pm
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KRISTEN Kreuk and Robin Shou in "Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li"

'Street Fighter' premiere

"STREET Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li" premieres on Cinema One's Blockbuster Sunday movie block tonight at 8.

Directed by Andrzej Bartkowiak and adapted from the popular video game franchise "Street Fighter," the movie tells the story of a female fighter who pursues formidable opponents.

CLICK!

Chun-Li's perfect life as a concert pianist and awake fighter is brought to an end when her father is abducted by a crime lord. She embarks on a dangerous mission to bring her father back.

Starring "Smallville" star Kristin Kreuk, the film co-stars Michael Clarke Duncan, Chris Klein, Rick Yune, and Neal McDonough.

The action-packed film is dubbed in Tagalog. Cinema One is available on Skycable Silver and other quality subscription channels.

X Factor

The competition heats up in "The X Factor Philippines" on ABS-CBN, after "Barak O Live." Followers can tweet their thoughts via the show's official Twitter account at @theXfactorphil (hashtag #WhatsMyVoice).

Shopping Alley A LIFESTYLE GUIDE

Lucky CHINATOWN: A new star emerges at the heart of Binondo

A delightful mix of traditional and modern shopping

By Joel Nigos

IN THE center of Binondo, the country's largest Chinese community, a large-scale urban renewal project is reinventing the leisure landscape and offering a new standard of living in this age-old community.

Lucky Chinatown is the latest offering by the Megaworld Lifestyle Malls brand, at its grand launch last Aug. 15, no less than President Noynoy Aquino graced the event with Megaworld chair Andrew Tan, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez per-

son during the occasion.

With this exciting development, Lucky Chinatown is expected to top the array in the Philippine retail venture. Megaworld Lifestyle Malls features significantly different characteristics from each other, giving each mall its own unique character. Each mall is meticulously planned to bring something new to Filipinos, while still addressing the area's particular needs.

Lucky Chinatown is a 108,000-sq. m. mall with five levels of top class shopping, dining and a deep appreciation of Binondo's Filipino-Chinese heritage.

Wide array of local, international brands

Tenderstone can take their pick from a wide selection of local and international fashion brands. Among the international brands that call Lucky Chinatown home are Mango, Cache Cache, Guy Aldo, Esprit, Clark's, Skechers, Sperry, Levi's, Lee, Lacoste, Hanston, Sperrow, Charles & Keith, and Guess Jeans.

Local brands that are making their way into the globalization bandwagon set up shop at Lucky Chinatown. These include Bench, Gotcha, Rustan, F&F, Baye, Penshoppe, Olympic, Hana and Pedro, and Skalibra.

As a shopping destination, the project doesn't just target the young and stylish. It features shops

TRENDSETTERS can choose from a wide array of international brands like Mango.

for the even younger set—a big draw for parents who want the best for their children. Establishments such as Baby Gap, Bubble & Ella, Ruby Fashionistas, Bench Tenderers, Shoe Thing, and Ollie & Co. all have something new and exciting to offer for customers.

Homemakers in the area don't need to go far to tend to the needs of their families. Occupying two levels is the Cebu-based Metro Market Supermarket, which offers a large assortment of

REDAN'S Fried Siopao is set to capture modern shoppers' hearts.

fresh produce, quality food products and everyday household items at reasonable prices. Metro Super

EACH medicinal product in Ai Ren Tang promises traditional healing with no side effects.

Our Home's It List:
Modern Vintage Chairs

Modern Vintage Chairs are now in the hot seat, staying on top of Our Home a It List.

The chair, one of the most common and practical pieces of furniture in your home, has countlessly reinvented throughout the years. Many styles of vintage chairs have in fact become iconic, reminiscent of bygone eras and trends.

Our Home, the lifestyle store that offers great designs at great prices, takes inspiration from mid century pieces like the Tulip Chair, the Egg Chair, and the Womb Chair to its collection of modern vintage accent chairs.

Timeless yet trendy, iconic yet innovative, the Modern Vintage Chair Collection is available at Our Home SM Megamall, SM Mall of Asia, and SM North Edsa Interior Zone. Designs may vary per store. Also visit our website: www.ourhome.ph

The Red Rosella Accent Chair. Inspired by Eero Saarinen's 1948 Womb Chair, this is shaped and outfitted with comfort in mind. This chair displays the Finnish-born designer's flair for challenging rules, breaking molds and setting new standards for modern design.

The Taupe Gilles Lounge Chair. Inspired by Le Corbusier's 1928 Gilles Lounge Chair, this sofa definitely exudes a statement in any room. This deck lounger features a full range of reclining positions for you to enjoy, providing you with long lasting comfort and quality. Although the Le Corbusier Gilles Lounge was launched in the 1928's, it still fits perfectly in the modern home with timeless design and ease.

Black Cobb Accent Arm Chair. Takes inspiration from the Eames Lounge Chair and Ottoman by Charles and Ray Eames. Created in 1956, is a rare classic in the history of modern furniture, combining ultimate comfort with materials and high quality craftsmanship.

Red Classic 3 Seater Sofa with a touch of metal and vintage vibe.

Modern vintage Red Merino Accent Chair with Ottoman.

Lucky Chinatown: A new star emerges at the heart of Binondo

Turn page B-2

market is known for carrying a range of imported items and commodities, mostly Western, Asian and European brands.

Stores such as Beauty Bar, The Body Shop, Watsons, Rustic Fix, GQ Barbershop, Stallabellos, Shoes Salon, and Beijing Roti Spa are the go-to grooming and wellness establishments at Lucky Chinatown. There are also specialty stores such as Mercury Drug, Xavin, Le mo Bentley Center, Globe Telecom, PSL direction Plus, Mr. Quickie, Watsons for Less, and Plaid Pantry.

In addition, Lucky Chinatown showcases a large variety of dining offerings to suit discriminating palates. Its restaurant roster includes Little Asia, Ecia Shenhuan Dining, King Chef, Tao Yuan, Red Crab Shirataga House, Healthy Shabu Shabu, Uncle Chaffy Steer, Ang Sarap, Sumo Sam, Cabalen Pizza Chalkers, and Bon Chon Chicken. Quick and delicious meals are also available at a one-of-a-kind food court at the fourth level.

Indulging guests with exciting entertainment are four upscale movie theaters equipped with state-of-the-art audio and video equipment at Lucky Chinatown Cinemas. These theaters are the first of their kind in Binondo.

Cinemas 1 is the perfect place for romantic dates because of its unique Intimate Twin Seats, designed to make any marriage feel like royalty. The twin seats, designed to accommodate two people comfortably, boast extra leg room and a removable middle armrest.

The rest of the cinemas are 3D-ready and with Dolby Digital Surround Sound equipment.

Chinatown Walk

Completing the Lucky Chinatown experience is the Chinatown Walk, which brings people back to Binondo's glorious past. The famed walk plunges visitors headfirst into Chinese culture, with the choicest Chinese cuisine, furniture, jewelry and herbal remedies. These restaurants and shops are interspersed with themed cultural exhibitions.

Among the sensory bringing the Chinatown of old to life are Kwan's Fried Siopao, Si Nan Tang, and Statical Charm and Feng Shui.

Kwan's Fried Siopao opened its first branch in the main street of Ongpin at the heart of Chinatown in the 1980s during the time when Ongpin Street was the center of the street food market in Manila. After an unfortunate fire that destroyed most of Ongpin in the 1990s, Kwan's Fried Siopao moved its main outlet in the busy streets of Binondo, where it became known and well-loved by people from all over the metro, from North Manila to as far as Alabang and Cavite. The new store at Chinatown Walk is set to capture hearts as it promises the authentic taste of Chinese street food.

At Si Nan Tang, meanwhile, is one of the most sought-after and established Chinese drugstores in Manila's old Chinatown. It has been processing, mixing and selling Chinese medicinal products for nearly 20 years.

Each medicinal product in Si Nan Tang has specific properties for healing. When combined, these herbs form new products that can treat other types of ailments—promising healing with no side effects.

Feng shui

No Chinatown is complete without an establishment devoted to Chinese feng shui. Now being run by second-generation Chinese feng shui masters is Statical Charm and Feng Shui which has been catering to the Filipino-Chinese community and Filipinos for more than 30 years. With its new shop at Chinatown Walk, Statical Charm and Feng Shui is bringing mainly everyday life with Chinese feng shui beliefs and practices, products of centuries of studies and records of personal experiences passed down from masters to their apprentices. Feng shui generally focuses on one's way of life and how one can attract harmony and prosperity in life based on its basic premises and Chinese astrological signs.

Because feng shui is about a way of life, there are no religious conflicts, allowing it to have wide acceptance and appreciation among its patrons.

Lucky Chinatown indeed is expected to brighten the Manila landscape, a city rich in history and heritage. Located at Reina Regente St. corner Delu Reina St., it is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

ellesse announces *Piaggio* scooter winners

MANDALUYONG Mandaluyong and Mandaluyong Mayor are now the proud owners of a super cool limited edition ellesse x Piaggio Fly 150i scooters.

Customers who purchased the stylish fashion sportswear from April 16 up to June 30, 2012, amounting to P10,000 (net, single or accumulated) were given the chance to win one of two limited edition silver Piaggio ellesse scooters (2009 model).

After generating their receipt's and their filled out entry forms, they became eligible for a chance to pick a key and try their luck at winning the Piaggio scooters last July 15, at the ellesse flagship store in Rockfield High Street, and last July 28 at ellesse Ayala Mall Feria.

There were a total of nine participants for the big draw in Metro Manila, where Mandaluyo ended up being the big winners. In the first draw, Mateo hosted the other participants to take home the Piaggio bike.

But of course, ellesse didn't let the other participants go home empty handed. As a token of thanks for supporting the brand, all of the nonwinning participants also received an ellesse gift certificate worth P1,000.

Shopping has never felt so good. Watch out for the next big ellesse giveaway.

Visit the ellesse Store located at G1 Southtower UG/F Rockfield High Street Central, at the second floor of Alabang Town Center's New Wing and at Abreeza Mall, Davao City. The apparel line is available in Rustpack Greenbelt 5, Rustpack Robinsons Place Manila, Rustpack Eastwood City, Rustpack Marquee, Rustpack Camp John Hay Baguio City, Rustpack Nuvali, Rustbase Tribeca, Rustbase Shangri-La, and The Travel Club Bayona Mactan Cebu. The footwear line is available in all Foot Tree Run branches and in Shopwise DBS.

ellesse is exclusively distributed by the Prime Group of Companies in the Philippines, Asia's most sexual giant.

Your access to a fun, fab and fashionable lifestyle – Forever 21 MasterCard

The opening of the fifth and newest Forever 21 store at the SM Mall of Asia is reason enough for shopaholics of all ages to rejoice and squeal in stylish delight! Main Forever 21 branches simply mean more choices and options for trendsetting fashionistas to stay fabulous all the time. And what better way to splurge on the chicest and latest must-have outfits than with a Forever 21 MasterCard.

With Forever 21 MasterCard's exclusive perks and privileges, shopping is made even easier!

Special Rewards Program

Cardholders earn three times more Rewards Points when they shop at Forever 21 stores in the Philippines. Cardholders get 3 peso points for every P200 spent in Forever 21 and 1 peso point for every P200 spent at other stores. Cardholders can use their points to shop at Forever 21.

Preferential treatment during sale events and special offers

Cardholders enjoy early access privilege before mall opening in every Forever 21 sale and learn about the special offers before everyone else. In addition, cardholders enjoy additional discounts on regular items and a 5% rebate for a minimum spend of P5,000 on their card during SM 3-Day Sale season. They can also avail of the 0% installment for 3 or 6 month terms for a minimum spend of P5,000.

Insider perks & birthday discount

Cardholders get invites to exclusive Forever 21 shopping parties and store events to receive exclusive previews of the hottest fashion. Exclusive payment and dressing room lanes in Forever 21 stores are alloted for Forever 21 MasterCard cardholders too! Plus, cardholders receive special treat on their birthday.

First Supplementary Membership Fee is free for LIFE

Principal Cardholder enjoys FREE Membership Fee for the first year. 1st Supplementary Cardholder enjoys a LIFETIME Annual Fee Waiver. Succeeding supplementary cardholders will be charged P500/month.

Global recognition

Under the MasterCard brand, the Forever 21 MasterCard can be used in over 32.7 million locations and is more than 210 countries and territories wherever MasterCard is accepted.

But wait, there's more! Shopping and fun? Definitely a fab and fashionable mix! Beyond the world of fashion, Forever 21 MasterCard provides the trendiest offer that features the hottest craze in town – tea drinks.

Apply for a Forever 21 MasterCard and get a Forever 21 shopping spree and free large Gong Cha tea drinks! Simply spend a minimum of P3,000 in Forever 21 in exchange a P500 Forever 21 Gift Certificate. Redeem any four large drinks with one count add-on each from Gong Cha when you present two charge slips with minimum single spend of P3,000 in any establishment.*

So what are you waiting for? Talk it forward with Forever 21 MasterCard!

For more details, visit any BDO branch or Forever 21 store nationwide, call the BDO Customer Contact Center at 631-8000 | 1-800-1041018000 (Domestic Toll Free) or log on to www.bdo.com.ph.

*Terms and conditions apply

SOME LIKE IT RAW

BECAUSE AT G-STAR RAW, A REGULAR PAIR OF JEANS JUST WON'T DO

By Kristine M. dela Rosa

G-Star Raw at Bonifacio High Street Central

Phyllisa Wilder, Kenya Smith, Mike Concepcion, Stan Romero & Shrag Malcolm

Bobby Ramirez

Kat Manalastas

Jazmine and Jem Ocampo

Cheryl Chang

Aaron loves it. People are getting a dose of something new. For those who hate jeans (a seriously) as G-Star Raw does, a good pair of jeans is not just enough—it has to be raw, pure and functional. After all, a pair of jeans in its purest form—untreated and unpretended—is not just a piece of clothing. It's a statement of people's identity, an extension of their personality, a non-verbal cue that says volumes about the things they care about.

It's a good thing then that G-Star Raw is newly dressed wear made by denim specialists, realizes the fact that denim is never far known for its innovative and cutting edge style, the brand continues to push the boundaries of this denim material. To the delight of denim addicts in the country, G-Star Raw has recently opened its first flagship store at the Bonifacio High Street Central.

"There's an ever growing number of individuals who love perfect denim that are made from raw materials," said Chelsea Rivera, G-Star Raw Concept Manager.

The thing with raw materials, however, is that they are not easy to manipulate. This makes the collection of jeans at G-Star Raw all the more impressive with craftsmanship that goes attention to detail, making every cut, finish, and twist a cut above the rest. G-Star Raw offers complete men's women's and accessory collection, many of which has been incorporated in its design one way or another—from jeans to jackets (with) to bow ties, shirts to skirts, caps to cardigans. G-Star Raw is about breaking rules, making eccentric combinations, and maintaining authenticity. It is both futuristic and cautious, life-reaching and experimental, alternative and traditional.

"What sets us apart is our personalized service. We have our own rapport to assist individuals, choose the pair of jeans that fit them the best," Reyes said. As opposed to just looking at how the pair of jeans fit on the waist, the Dutch brand also takes into account the length and silhouette so one can wear the pair of jeans as comfortably as possible. Each store has a denim wall, where a G-Star Raw denim expert is ready to assist anyone "find the perfect pair of jeans."

"Our products speak for themselves. The quality is there, the playfulness, the variety in cuts, dyes, and washes, the technology, the attention to details is exemplary," the brand manager said. It isn't surprising to know that G-Star Raw is the brand that commissioned two during the mid-1990s, which paved the way for the distinctive material to conquer the realm of denim and become a mainstream staple in everyday wear. G-Star Raw has come a long way since its inception in 1989 in Amsterdam. To date, it has established presence in 10 countries around the world including major markets such as Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. In fact, fans can also be found in the US and the UK. In Asia, the brand is available in Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and now, the Philippines.

"Hard to believe at how many individuals—both foreigners and locals—are familiar with the brand. They are thankful that they don't have to go abroad or have someone buy it for them because now they can get it themselves here in the country," Reyes said.

Every G-Star Raw store is a chance to showcase one-ever "exhibition" the public about what makes a good pair of jeans. "It is why the company prides itself that G-Star Raw stores are presented in an environment that conveys the philosophy, design aesthetic and raw authenticity of the brand. Once inside this new store in Bonifacio High Street Central, it's evident how the pure lines in more rustic and rugged as compared to the more chic and sexy look of the ladies' side. Fittingly, the store's ambiance reflects the feel of the products it showcases.

Every element within the interior of the G-Star Raw store is designed and developed using natural materials, through which denim is showcased in its purest form. Fitting rooms are spacious and well-lighted.

To formally launch its flagship store in Manila, G-Star Raw recently held a get-together attended by artists who in the fashion industry to the event. Reminiscent also presented to the Filipino ambassadors who exemplify what the brand is all about. Brand ambassadors are made up of a slew of some of Manila's most recognizable faces including DJ and model Sonya Smith, rock model Pauline Peralta, fashion director Sid Paredes, social entrepreneur Mike Concepcion, and edgy designer Stan Romero.

With their unique sense of style, these five young and promising names capture the essence that the G-Star Raw brand stands for. On display right now are items included in the pre-fall and winter collection, though new products come regularly.

"You have really know what you're missing until you get to try our products," Reyes said.

With a deep passion for denim and raw materials, coupled with architectural perspective on tailoring, no one else knows jeans better than G-Star Raw.

G-Star Raw is distributed exclusively by Henkel Bonifacio Corp., a member of retail giant Rustan Group of Companies.

L to R – Jaeho Ha - General Manager, Edenland Ltd., Thomas Lee – Chairman and Executive Director, Pioneer Group of Companies, Anthony Hoang - Branch Accessories Hong Kong Limited, Tom J. Blackett (CEO), Pioneer Group of Companies, Anthony Hoang – CEO, Pioneer Holdings, Carmen Bueno – Worldwide Commercial Director, G-Star Raw

Richard Anderson & Mike Ayalan

Angel Alcala & Ace Concepcion

Mike Ayalan

Jazmine Ng & Victoria Ng (L)

Ina Dyk & Chelsea Reyes
Brand Managers, G-Star

Trustworthy brands for the best baby care

By Marlet Salazar

PARENTS only want the best for their babies. Babies bring joy to a home. Mothers can't get enough of the feeling of welcoming another life inside them.

Mae Vac-Co Say, CEO of international Globale Marquee Inc., knows only too well how parents look for trustworthy brands because she has two children. The company is the exclusive distributor of Ergobaby, Pigeon and Babyz Pins.

Co Say brings these innovative brands in the country for parents to have more choices when it comes to baby products. According to Co Say she believes in these brands and vows them for her children.

Baby-based manufacturers come up with various products and designs that evolve according to necessity. One example is Ergobaby, an international baby-wearing brand which traces its origins in Hawaii. It started as a project by Rustic Pirtel who designed the first Ergobaby Original Carrier for her son.

What distinguishes Ergobaby Carrier from the others is it supports the baby's spine and hips while strapped on the parent or nanny. There are three ways to wear this carrier: on the back, front, and even as the hip (side). Even newborn babies can fit into the Ergobaby Carrier with a specially-designed insert with enough cushion to support their fragile bodies. All Ergobaby Carriers have a hood to support your sleeping baby's head, protects from sun and wind, and allows for privacy while nursing. Just like baby carriers is not bulky and ideal for commuting because the parent can move around comfortably.

ERGOBABY Organic Peaceful Paisley

ERGOBABY Red Sport

Babyz 1st is part of the Brand Accessible Group, the #1 Safety & Accessible Company in the US which manufactures accessories, baby car seats, baby carriers, booster seats, gates and child proofing products.

Babyz 1st's Success Stroller has a one-hand fold-and-stand, multi-position seat recline, canopy with window, large storage basket, three-point restraint system, child snack tray with cup holder and Slide Guard protection that keeps a child in place, parent organizer tray with two cup holders and covered compartment. The stroller can hold a child that weighs up to 50 pounds.

The Comfy Carry Plus have one-hand fine to 22 pounds, side impact protection, infant head support, and easy-to-use base.

Babyz 1st's Joint Stroller has a see-hand, stand-alone fold which allows the stroller to stand alone when folded, covered storage compartment, and easy headphone cord access. It also has a canopy with a peek-a-boo window, three-point harness so the child is comfortable in place, and accepts a large basket.

The Designer Infant Car Seat has a one-hand recline car seat for children five to 22 lbs., a five-point harness with infant head support, and side impact protection.

Pigeon is a popular Japanese brand that has more than 50 percent not only for babies but also for mother's care. But aside from the products, Pigeon partners as advocacy for mothers during pregnancy.

Pigeon's Baby is My Belly Campaign was launched this year. It provided expectant moms with The Pregnancy Bracelet Gold Chit consists of a list of all the things every pregnant mom would wish to say to their family, loved ones, friends and strangers but simply can't.

Mom's Pocketbook is a special pocket book for each mom to keep a record of their journey each month while being pregnant. Pigeon Mom's Political Wishlist is where every mom who received a pocketbook will have the chance to make a wish for their baby and family. Pigeon Baby is My Belly Heart Shape Bag "big symbolizes support for the campaign.

Baby-care is serious business and pioneer have a wide array of choices in the market. It's only a matter of knowing which brands truly give the care they want.

SAUNTER Travel System

All things white for your baby's apparel

THE FIRST year of a child's life is also the critical period of development. That's why it is important that babies should be provided products that are not only proven safe by experts but are also of good quality to guarantee its performance.

Beginnings Baby, an apparel brand, says just the things you need to start your baby right.

Beginnings Baby, the first all-white newborn baby apparel brand, offers a full range of baby necessities. With each piece crafted from heaps of soft cotton, its worry product is just the thing you need to start your baby right.

It is the first infant apparel brand to herald the importance and necessity of white apparel for infants by adhering strictly to all things white.

White garments are preferred by pediatricians, white being cleanest and also safest.

With white too, it is easier to spot stains, dirt, insects and other unwanted objects. White also proves for more comfortable wear, hygienically, the white color attracts less heat-meaning that your little one is always cool and comfortable.

Beginnings Baby's line of products created especially for newborns to infants up to 12 months old include T-shirts, sleeveless shirts, tie-sides, sleep suits, cardigans, bodysuits, shorts, pajamas, undies, shoes, booties, caps, mittens, blankets, bibs, wash cloths, blankets, towels and diapers-everything you need for your beloved little ones, all in immaculate white. Visit www.facebook.com/beginningsbaby for more details.—Joel Rojas

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Travelling in style with Fly Shades

FLYING off to different destinations is exciting but can also be physically taxing. Good thing Fly Shades has a couple of eyewears to let you glam up your travel plans. No matter how pale, tired and exhausted you think you look from all those transportation transfers and even jetlag, listen up your travel outfit with a Fly Shades eyewear.

For that sophisticated look, wear Alexandria as it showcases its elegance as oversized sunnies to make you feel like a Hollywood star stepping out of the plane or being mannered in an airport and bus station.

The Berlin equally goes well with the aim to look effortlessly glam and fresh. Its bronze color and hint of Old Hollywood-like and sophistication to excellent pieces regardless if it's a trip to Paris or just an out-of-town shoot in Subic.

The Clark eyewear takes a run of tapestry and adventure as silver and black accent give off a "time-shoot-town" air. It shows you're ready to take on the world, paint the town red yet maintain that stylish and assertive demeanor from the crowd.

Prepare to be laidback-new and western who like to be a "stylista" and have an "indie" spirit. It's remarkably "relaxed" and simple yet highly sensitive to the classy vintage look. The interesting rockstar in you will want to have. Prepare on your new eyewear collection as you traverse different places.

Soaking given off a vibrant spirit and personality quite like Laguna? Color that entice trip with your colors rich and warm tone-prime: Laguna pink.

Layers to every bit the sophisticated Fly Shades' Chuck are the following branches: Alabang Town Center, CSI The City Mall, Festival Supermall, Harbor Point, Magic Mall, Muñoz Citimart, Market Market!, Robinsons Place Mall, SM Pacific Mall, Mega Mall, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Lipa, Robinsons Manila, Robinsons Pangasinan, SM Baguio, SM Bacoor, SM Calamba, SM Cebu, SM Clark, SM Dasmariñas, SM Davao, SM Fairview, SM Lipa, SM Lucena, SM Marikina, SM Molino, SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, SM Molino, SM Muntinlupa, SM Naga, SM North Edsa, SM Sucalibre, SM Pampanga, SM Pasay, SM San Lazaro, SM San Pablo, SM Sucat, SM Tarlac, SM Telwell, SM Valenzuela, Sta. Lucia East and Trinoma. Check out the newly opened branches at SM General Santos and SM San Fernando. For the latest news and updates on Fly Shades, like I love flyshades on Facebook.

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Creative Lead

The Creative Lead should be an excellent graphic designer and multimedia expert, able to manage the entire project chain across conceptualization, story-boarding and design to delivery and post production review. Requires:

- Degree in Fine Arts, Multimedia Arts, New Media or Graphic Design
- 5-7 years of relevant experience as a creative or art lead, or as a senior/lead designer gained from multinational and world-additional media design with a focus on print design and multimedia production
- Proficiency in Adobe Creative Suite 5 (Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign), Dreamweaver, Flash Professional, After Effects, Dreamweaver, Fireworks, Premiere, and Soundbooth, 3D Modeling and Animation, video and audio editing software and new design studio and technologies

Senior Marketing Communications Specialist

The person hired will draft copy for brochures, ads, event collateral, web sites, targeted letters, proposals and research-based reports. He/she will master a distinct communication style and uphold editorial and brand standards. Requires critical and creative thinking, as well as:

- Bachelor's degree in Business, Marketing, Communications, Journalism or English and five or more years of field experience
- Flexibility and change in developing various types of marketing copy
- Copy writing experience in an ad agency a plus, as well as experience conducting E-level interviews

Marketing Coordinator

The person hired will support business development tools and projects and engage with global, regional and local marketing contacts to increase adoption and improve effectiveness of these tools. This role requires:

- At least two years of experience working with databases in a marketing/business development capacity
- Intermediate project management skills and aptitude for data extraction and analysis, strong writing and editing skills
- Intermediate knowledge in HTML, a plus.

Deals Administrator

This role provides support to legal practice groups in the implementation, quality control and improvement of their deal/lead list collection processes. The person hired will use the deal information to assist in preparing presentations, pitches and capabilities statements. Requires:

- Previous experience in an administrative, quality control or subject matter expert role
- Experience working in a legal/other professional services environment — or basic technical knowledge of legal services
- Familiarity with database management

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- *PLUMBER
- *CARPENTER
- *PAINTER
- *OPERATOR (ROOM SERVICE)
- *HOTEL SECURITY
- *DRIVER
- *MAINTENANCE MANAGER (CHIEF ENGR.)
- *I.T. MANAGER
- *COST CONTROLLER
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SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER - SUB-NATIONAL GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), responsible for the delivery of one of the largest aid program in the Philippines - Australia's Development Cooperation Program, is looking for a highly motivated and experienced person to fill the Senior Program Officer (SPO) position in the Sub-National Governance team.

The SPO will assist the Portfolio Manager in managing (including contract and financial management) the delivery of a range of bilateral and multi-donor grant activities at the local government level, and contributing to AusAID's corporate goals and objectives. The SPO will provide support and advice to the Portfolio Manager on the development of new initiatives and implementation of programs, as well as on policy issues relevant to the sector and to aid effectiveness.

Selection Criteria
Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons, with Philippine nationals being encouraged to apply. Please note that this is an Overseas Based, not an Australian Public Service position. Further details on job descriptions and selection criteria for this position can be accessed under job vacancies at the website: http://www.philippines.embassy.gov.au/mnla/vacancy.html

Conditions of Contract
The Position is full-time, with ongoing employment contract, and based in the AusAID Manila office. The successful candidate is expected to commence as soon as possible. The commencing salary is PHP4,259 per month, with entitlements in leave, comprehensive health insurance and other conditions.

Expressions of Interest
Interested applicants must address the selection criteria, and detail suitability to perform the duties of the position including personal qualities, experience, skills and knowledge. Information on how to apply for the job can be found in the Application Pack under job vacancies at the website: http://www.philippines.embassy.gov.au/mnla/vacancy.html

All applications should be forwarded to: HR Manager, Development Cooperation Section, Australian Embassy, 23/F Tower 2, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200 or HandanManuelMan@ausaid.gov.au on or before Monday, 3 September 2012. Written applications signed and sealed required to be submitted at the time of application, although applicants should ensure that the names and contact details of two (2) work-related referees are supplied. Do not send copies of academic transcripts, awards, degrees, or published papers. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Envelopes should be clearly marked "SPO Sub-National Governance/AUSAID". Due to the volume of applications, only shortlisted applicants will have their application acknowledged.

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QUANTITY SURVEYOR/COST. ENG. – Male, 28 to 45 years old, must be a licensed Civil Engineer with at least 3 years experience, knowledgeable in cost & estimates, billing preparation and project schedule, proficient in Microsoft Project, willing to be assigned in projects.

PHOTOGRAMMETRIST – Male or Female, College Graduate. Knows how to perform heads-up digitizing, image enhancement. Knowledgeable in Adobe Photoshop 2, and other image enhancement software.

Applicants are requested to apply personally to:

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Since 1963, ACDI/VOCA has empowered people in 140 developing and transitional nations to succeed in the global economy. ACDI/VOCA currently has an approximate of 90 projects in 40 countries and revenues of $140 million. We are seeking candidates for **Technical Specialists** for an anticipated multiyear maternal and child health program to Philippines. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of public and private organizations in the Philippines to deliver a comprehensive package of reproductive health and preventive maternal and child health services in Mindanao. The project will be based in Mindanao and these positions are contingent on ACDI/VOCA being awarded the program.

Anticipated positions include: Chief of Party, Family Planning/Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and Nutrition (FP/MNCHN) Specialist, Behavior Change Communication (BCC) Specialist, Training Manager, Finance Manager

Qualifications: All candidates should be fluent in English, Tagalog, Visayan or other languages spoken in Mindanao. Experience working in conflict/post-conflict environments is strongly preferred.

Chief of Party:

- Master's degree in public health, nutrition, medicine (M.D.), social sciences, or a related field is required
- Minimum of 10 years as chief of party on projects of at least $10 million and at least three years of experience managing health/nutrition programs
- Familiarity with the Philippine health system and local culture is required; previous program management in the Philippines is strongly preferred

Family Planning/Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and Nutrition (FP/MNCHN) Specialist:

- Advanced degree (at least master's level) in public health, medicine (M.D.), social sciences (such as medical anthropology), or other fields related to the concerns of the project.
- Demonstrated understanding and familiarity with issues faced by health workers involved in the provision of FP/MNCHN services, in either the public or the private sectors.

Behavior Change Communication (BCC) Specialist:

- Demonstrated understanding and familiarity with development communications issues and solutions, especially in public health.
- Demonstrated experience providing technical assistance to behavior change communications projects, with emphasis on US government-funded health programs in the region.

Training Manager

- At least 10 years of experience working on public health projects, with experience designing and conducting training activities.
- Demonstrated experience developing and delivering trainer curricula for training of trainers and technicians.

Finance Manager

- Strong accounting knowledge. USAID project experience preferred.
- Minimum four years professional experience working in financial management, procurement and grants management experience useful. Experience working with QuickBooks preferred.

To be considered for this recruitment, please submit a resume to PHRecruitment@ACDIVOCA.org by August 20. Please write the position for which you are applying in the email subject line. No phone calls please. Only finalists will be contacted. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. EOE.

All applications must be received by August 20, 2012

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- Accounting Supervisor
- Housekeeping Supervisor
- Public Relations Associate

Qualified applicants may send letter of application with comprehensive "Curriculum Vitae" attention to Ms. Mary Ann Go at

inquiry@costapacificaraintree.com

or may send to our pre-opening office located at 6th Floor, Executive Fy Tower, #104 Roxas Ds. Roxas Cor. Ponce Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229 Philippines

Costa Pacifica Raintree is located along Roxas Blvd., Baclaran with a beautiful view of the South Harbor. The hotel is a project of the Ayala Land Group, Inspired by its Filipino and Spanish heritage, the hotel will offer 400 world-class rooms, suites and residences. Its Spanish name, Costa Pacifica, literally means "Pacific Coast" and is a nod to the hotel's location by the Pacific Ocean. The 28 square meter standard rooms and suites come in three colors: Costa Pacifica Blue, Costa Pacifica Green and Costa Pacifica Red, each with its distinct name, theme, material and decorative group, specially designed and curated from the three major living 21 centuries of Philippine

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- Experience in web applications development required
- Ability to work individually or in a team to beat tight deadlines
- Strong analytical skills to translate user requirements into technical design

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ HR COORDINATOR

Provide administrative support to the Country Manager by ensuring smooth operation of administrative functions. In addition, ensure efficient administrative support to the Human Resources Department based in Guam; by assisting in the planning, coordination and implementation of all HR and Training related functions. Ideal candidate must be highly organized and efficient; result and detail oriented with strong ability to multi-task. Previous HR and administrative experience a plus. *(Ref: AA02)*

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LOUIS VUITTON

Children are at the heart of everything we do

Plan

Plan International is one of the oldest and the largest international development agencies in the world. In the Philippines, Plan works with children and their families to the same communities with programs covering education, child and youth engagement, health (including water and environmental sanitation), and child protection.

Plan International invites highly **competent, experienced and committed professionals** to fill the following position:

Business Development Specialist

(Based in Metro Cebu)

The incumbent leads Plan International Philippines in building and maintaining an adequate and appropriate level of funding (grants) in opportunities for Country Strategic Plan. He/She is responsible in growing the grants portfolio of Plan International Philippines by maximizing opportunities in country and externally (by working closely with a team of Country Program Advisers, Policy Natural Organization Staff) and Field Technical Officers in developing and packaging proposals. He/she maintains and manages relationships with donors, local networks, and National Organizations. He/she ensures financial and operational requirements of grants.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of Bachelor's degree in Economics, Social Sciences or other related course a must.
- Minimum 5 years experience working in business development sector with at least 3 years spent in resource mobilization and grants writing with international donors required.
- Substantial experience with NGOs in the development sector and an international experience is/has an advantage.
- Strong knowledge of and experience in Overseas Development Assistance and its contractual requirements.
- Proficient in business development planning, presentation/grant proposal writing/packaging, budgeting & monitoring, and reporting with donors.
- High level of negotiation and communication skills. Consultant, analytical and problem solving skills. Excellent level of English both oral and written, and strong human relations and flight orientation.
- Experience in working with children and communities and in implementing child-related/support work/projects, will be an advantage.

Project Manager

(Based in Tacloban City)

This incumbent is responsible for the development and management of the ERA project in Plan identified areas in the Visayas. He/She will support the design, implementation, quality and coordination of the CSEs projects in these 20 Visayas provinces. He/she will develop and maintain strategic partnerships and leads in consultation and collaboration with the regional and provincial levels in pursuit of project goals and adherence to PAD spirit and donor requirements, agreements and standards.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Advanced degree relevant to the field (at least a Masteral level in Rural or Coastal Management, Disaster Management or Environmental Management) and technical knowledge in climate change adaptation (or it relates to water, resources management, food security, community development, gender etc), particularly at the community level.
- Minimum 5 years experience in program management demonstrating the ability to manage budgets and programs/projects of international NGO, with particular specialization on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation and hands-on experience in participatory approaches.
- Proven ability in social development, participative project management, strategic and analytical thinking.
- Interpersonal and political skills in leading teams, result orientation, self-management, advocacy, networking and collaboration are preferred.

Project Officer

(Based in Makati City)

Plan has Economic Commissioner grant-funded project on **Anti-Corporal Punishment Strengthening Civil Society in Effecting Positive Action Against Corporal Punishment in the Philippines**. The project aims to strengthen the role of civil society in the promotion of children's rights and the elimination of violence against children, particularly given abuses such as corporal punishment.

The incumbent capacitates the children, community stakeholders and partners by facilitating situational analysis, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (SPIME) processes in the context of child-based community development approaches, and gender responsiveness. He/She ensures adherence to the corporate and donor standards and requirements.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of Bachelor's degree in Social Work, Community Development, Social Sciences or other related courses required.
- Minimum 2 years solid experience in community organizing and development. Hands-on experience in participatory approaches is a must.
- With strong demonstrated competencies in community organizing/development, program/project management, participatory rapid appraisal involving children, and building relations partnership.
- Above average skills in written and analytical thinking, verbal and written communication, lobbying and information are highly desirable.
- Experience working with grant-funded project in an international non-government organization an advantage.

Community Development Facilitator

(Based in Southern Mindoro)

Plan has a grant-funded project for the Mangyans of Occidental Mindoro entitled "**Indigenous and Isolated Children (IIC) Community Sponsorship**" in Mindoro. The project aims to increase the access of Mangyans to basic services covering health, education, water, sanitation, and child protection through child-centered community development approach.

The incumbent will facilitate the design, planning, implementation, monitoring, documentation, and evaluation of the community sponsorship grant project. He/she will be responsible in maximizing the implementation of the project in the areas of Mangyan settlement and will work closely with stakeholders from the Mangyan leaders, barangay council, people's organization, and municipal government unit.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of Bachelor's degree in Education, Social Work, Social Sciences, Community Development, Anthropology or other related courses required.
- Minimum 2 years proven experience in community organizing and development. Hands-on experience in participatory approaches is a must. Experience working with indigenous people an advantage.
- With strong demonstrated competencies in community organizing/development, program/project management, participatory rapid appraisal involving children, and building relations partnership.
- Above average skills in written and analytical thinking, verbal and written communication, lobbying and information are highly desirable.
- Experience working with grant-funded project in an international non-government organization an advantage.

Competitive compensation package and great opportunities for professional and career development await the qualified candidates.

Qualified candidates must submit their letter of intent with a detailed curriculum vitae **on or before 31 August 2012** to **Philippines.hr@plan-international.org** or alternatively, to Plan International Inc. – Philippines Branch Office, 3rd Floor Bonaventure Building, 4008 Sampaguita St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Please indicate the position you are applying for in the subject title.

Due to the volume of applications we receive, we will only contact shortlisted candidates for further processing.

For more information on Plan International and its programs in the Philippines, please visit our website: **www.plan-international.org**

"Plan recruitment and selection policies and procedures ensure our commitment to gender equality and child protection against abuse"

Plan is an international, child-centered community development organization without religious, political or governmental affiliations. Founded in 1937, Plan works in over 50 countries globally.

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:

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A whole host of factors are stopping nearly 1 billion people worldwide from having enough to eat. Oxfam is working to change figures like this, developing the GROW campaign that aims to drive sustainable resource production, address equality in the food system and invest in a more resilient community. Putting these plans into action right across East Asia, you'll take it to the next level.

About the role

In what is very much a two-fold challenge, you'll head up our regional research agenda and develop the policy positions behind our East Asia GROW strategy. This will involve conducting and commissioning research into a wide range of issues relating to agriculture, food security and climate change in the East Asia region. Then drawing on your expert knowledge of policy analysis to help us meet our regional goals as well as Oxfam's wider objectives. Aligning our policy and research work with Oxfam colleagues in South Asia, you'll also be responsible for building relationships and coordinating our lobbying efforts with the Asian Development Bank, the Food & Agriculture Organisation and other partners across this region.

What we're looking for

To rise to the challenge, you'll need considerable experience in a similar policy and research role. The chances are you'll come to us with a relevant qualification. More important, however, is that your advanced research skills and proven experience of policy analysis are underpinned by an understanding of food security, poverty reduction, agriculture and economic development. Alongside that professional expertise, we'll also be looking for excellent interpersonal and communication skills, showing us you're capable of building relationships at every level. And from a practical standpoint, you must also be prepared for extensive travel.

This is a national or field post, we will be unable to obtain visa and work permit for a non- Filipino national.

More info and Apply: visit www.oxfam.org.uk/jobs using the job reference number **INT0630**

The closing date: 30th August 2012

Oxfam Great Britain is a leading aid, development, and campaigning charity with a worldwide reputation for excellence and over 60 years of experience. As an organisation Oxfam is committed to gender equity and putting women's rights at the heart of all we do. In Asia, Oxfam GB works with partners across the region, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Nepal, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Oxfam is committed to equal opportunities and diversity. We welcome and encourage applications from women, minority and underrepresented groups.

Deloitte.

Philippines (3 Local Jb)

A global professional services firm with 600+offices worldwide is seeking proven, best in-class professionals to be a part of the firm's rapid growth in the region. The firm invites applications from qualified, motivated professionals with senior management experience with International / National Non-Governmental Organizations (I/NGO) or Governmental Organizations (GO) projects for an upcoming multi-year anti-corruption project.

The Project will provide technical assistance to reduce corruption, contribute to inclusive growth by reducing the costs of corruption to investments and trade, and promote open and fair competition to create a better climate for trade and investment in the Philippines.

M&E Specialist: The M&E Specialist must have at least a master's degree in social sciences, economics, public administration, business or a related field that includes research or evaluation methodology and statistics training. At least five years' experience in monitoring, evaluation, or development research is required. Track record in monitoring and/or evaluating projects similar to (1) will be given due consideration. S/He should possess technical familiarity with relevant monitoring and evaluation methods and must have exceptional English technical writing skills.

Public Sector Anticorruption Specialist: The Public Sector Anticorruption Specialist must have 5+ years of experience designing and implementing programs to mitigate corruption or strengthen institutional capacity of the public sector in the Philippines. Specific experience providing technical assistance to government counterparts such as the Civil Service Commission (CSC), Commission on Audit (COA), Ombudsman's Office, or the Department of Budget and Management will be given due consideration. S/He should hold at least a bachelor's degree in public policy, public administration, political economy, or other related field.

Corporate Governance and Private Sector Integrity Specialist: The Corporate Governance and Private Sector Integrity Specialist must have 5+ years of experience designing and implementing programs to strengthen integrity in the private sector and among government-owned and –controlled corporations in the Philippines. Previous experience working with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Governance Commission for Government-Owned or –Controlled Corporations will be given due consideration. S/he should hold at least a bachelor's degree in business administration, public policy, public administration, political economy, or other related fields.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Specialist: The ICT Specialist must have 5+ years of experience assessing, procuring, installing, and managing the implementation of ICT systems for public sector counterparts in the Philippines. The successful candidate will demonstrate an ability to design and deliver training on basic and intermediate ICT topics. Previous experience working on case management databases, digital records management, and the implementation of citizen service desks will be given due consideration. The candidate should possess familiarity with IT security solutions. S/he should hold at least a bachelor's degree in computer science.

Communications and Public Outreach Advisor: The Communications and Public Outreach Advisor must have 5+ years of experience in public outreach and communications for public or private sector clients in the Philippines. The successful candidate will demonstrate an ability to assist public sector counterparts in the design and delivery of a public outreach campaign. The successful candidate will have experience liaising and assisting counterparts and the demonstrated ability to build the capacity of counterpart organizations in communications and outreach. S/he should hold at least a bachelor's degree in communications, public administration, public policy, or other related field.

All qualified applicants are requested to send their updated CV to **Philippines13@deloitte.com** by **Sunday, August 26, 2012**.

Training on the Establishment of Thermal Processes for Canned Foods

The Food Development Center (FDC) of the National Food Authority (NFA) will conduct a training course on the "Establishment of Thermal Processes for Canned Foods" at the FDC Compound, FTI Complex, Taguig City on September 4-7, 2012 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

The training aims to upgrade the technical capability of participants from the canned food industry in establishing adequate thermal processes for canned foods. It is designed for technical personnel with educational background in food science, food engineering, microbiology or related fields and industry experience in food canning.

The course will last for 4 days with 3 hours of lecture-discussions, 19 hours hands-on exercises and demonstrations and 2 hours of examination. The examination on thermal process calculations is administered on mid-to the learning process.

The course fee is P7,500 per participant inclusive of training manual, lunch, snacks and a shuttle service from Ayala Center, Makati City and vice versa. Interested participants are encouraged to make early reservation and confirm through payment of required checks payable to the National Food Authority – Food Development Center.

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Amelia S. Bautista, at 889-FDC, FTI Complex, Taguig City or 584. Nos. 838-4014; 838-4563; 838-4478; 838-4603 or at Fax Nos. 838-4014 and 838-4602 and e-mail address: info@fdc.nfa.ph.

VP Binay visits Pag-IBIG Imus office, checks on plight of members

PAG-IBIG BOARD Chairman, Vice President Jejomar Binay visited the Pag-IBIG Field branch in Imus, Cavite on August 15, to check on the plight of Pag-IBIG members applying for calamity loans following the effects of the recent typhoon and heavy rains. He also ensured that the loan proceeds are released immediately to member-borrowers.

Pag-IBIG Imus branch, the entire Cavite area, which is one of the areas hit by the flooding caused by the typhoon "Gener" and the monsoon rains. Since the past week, this branch has already granted P3,000,000 in total Calamity Loans to several close to 10,000 Pag-IBIG members and their families.

Corporate-wide, Pag-IBIG has granted P200,000 million in total Calamity Loans for 10,000 members over a span of seven days. Pag-IBIG expects to receive more applications in the coming weeks.

Prior to the announcement of these calamities, Pag-IBIG Imus receives and processes an average of 400 to 500 short-term loan applications a day. Since the calamities hit, however, the volume has more than doubled. The average number of loan applications received in the past three days has been recorded at 1,000.

The Vice President recently instructed Pag-IBIG to set up satellite offices to ensure and process applications for Calamity Loan and to provide additional service to members affected by the calamity which struck Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

"It is our goal to assist our countrymen who lost their homes and livelihood due to the calamity. With the establishment of additional satellite offices, it would be easier and more convenient for Pag-IBIG members to file their applications for calamity loan," says the Vice President.

Pag-IBIG has opened desks at the Lingkod Pinoy Centers located at the Robinsons Malls Galleria in Ortigas, Evangelista, Metro East in Pasig, Novaliches, Isetan and Diamond Star Centre Sta. Rosa, Laguna. She visits, and San Fernando Pampanga. Mobile desks have also been set up in municipal offices in Caloocan, Malabon, Valenzuela, Navotas to receive Calamity loan applications. For a complete list of the fund's services desks, please visit website, www.pagibigfund.gov.ph.

Pag-IBIG members in areas declared under a state of calamity will receive 80 percent of their total savings at an interest rate of 3.96 percent. The loan is payable in 24 months with a grace period of three months.

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Save the Children

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Save the Children (SC) is the world's leading independent organization for children. We work in both humanitarian and development settings. We are recognized and trusted for our expertise in education, emergency response and...

1. Applicant must have a minimum of 3 years of experience in emergency response in terms of technical expertise and funding support particularly in Emergency Food Security and Livelihoods (EFSL), Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE), Education in Emergencies (EiE), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Health and Nutrition in Emergencies (HNiE), WASH in Emergencies (WiE), Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ES/NFI), Camp Management (CM), Early Recovery (ER), Cash Transfer Programming (CTP) and other relevant sectors in emergency response;
2. Applicant must have worked with at least two (2) of the following clusters: Food Security Cluster (FSC), Nutrition Cluster, Health Cluster, WASH Cluster, Shelter Cluster, Education Cluster, Child Protection Working Group (CPWG), Gender Based Violence Working Group (GBVWG), Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM), Early Recovery Cluster (ERC), Logistics Cluster, Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), Common Humanitarian Action Package (CHAP), Protection Cluster, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change and Health and Nutrition (DRR/CCH). All documentation to support roles must be current;

To build initial response capacity for longer scale emergency responses
Fixed term positions based in Metro Manila - August 2012 – February 2013
Willing to travel anywhere in the Philippines at short notice
(At the onset of an identified sudden emergency)

EMERGENCY RESPONSE MANAGER

Support the Country Program Emergency Preparedness Plan by strengthening the coordination of responding emergency Teams; Ensure the implementation of Save the Children Emergency Response Mechanisms and coordinate with the Program Development Team for the supporting of the Strategic Plan and CP activities;

- Collate assessment analysis, data from both partners including sector/ cluster emergency responses in Philippines and other relevant organizations in the country;
- Identify emergency response needs and coordinate with Program Development Team;
- Identify and support the formation of emergency response teams from personnel through project funding and network of partners and other humanitarian actors in the Philippines;
- Provide and utilize Humanitarian Information Management (HIM) systems to store key information, collaborate in responding to emergencies and be accountable to all stakeholders. (Staff Protection, Health & Nutrition, Disaster Risk Reduction)

Acting as a team emergency response, will assume responsibilities in absence of emergency team management in countries/sub-area

Qualifications: Ability to work well in an interagency and in-country collaborative capacity; significant project management experience; Experience in working with partners and other agencies; Experience in working in emergency situations; Experience in the operations of inter-agency collaboration; capacity building, representation, preparing successful funding proposals in various; Excellent communication, networking and advocacy skills including effective oral and written presentation skills; Excellent English and a knowledge of the local language; Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work as part of a team; Ability to work under pressure and manage a broad, diverse workload; Computer literate and able to use standard software packages; Willingness to travel frequently within the country; Willingness to undergo Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT); Experience with Cluster coordination; Experience with Emergency Preparedness Plan and Response Plan Development; Valid CV and visa;

Duration: Fixed term positions based in Metro Manila - August 2012 – February 2013

- Collate HRM assessment analysis from both local and inter-country service station emergency responses in Philippines and other humanitarian actors in the Philippines. (Health and Nutrition, HRM personnel ready for mobilization during an emergency, Maintain database for recruitment, onboarding and mobilization of emergency response staff with CP for those identified HRM training for mobilization)

During an actual emergency response, will assume CP Country Office responsibility should the need to re-organize capacities exist.

CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES (CPiE) ADVISOR

Support the Country Program's Emergency Preparedness Plan by strengthening the readiness of CP personnel in case of an emergency

- In close or heavy use maintenance of a country CPE programming including the development / updating of programmatic tools, response plans and related budgets where SCI and / or partner/local support is provided; Ensure timely training and dissemination of updated tools and plans to relevant staff; Ensure timely and accurate reporting of CPE activities and expenditures; Ensure timely and accurate dissemination of CPE information and lessons learned and best practices; Ensure that all staff and partners receive training on CPE and that all staff and partners have the knowledge and skills to implement relevant CPE activities; Ensure that all staff and partners have the knowledge and skills to implement relevant CPE activities;
- Support the development and implementation of the country CPE Emergency Preparedness Plan and Response Plan (Contingency Plan with CP activities);
- Collate CPE assessment analysis from both local and inter-country service station emergency responses in Philippines and other humanitarian actors in the Philippines. (Health and Nutrition, CPE personnel ready for mobilization during an emergency, Maintain database for recruitment, onboarding and mobilization of emergency response staff with CP for those identified CPE training for mobilization)

During an actual emergency response, will assume CP Country Office responsibility should the need to re-organize capacities exist.

Qualifications: Ability to work well in an interagency and in-country collaborative capacity; significant project management experience; Experience in working with partners and other agencies; Experience in working in emergency situations; Experience in the operations of inter-agency collaboration; capacity building, representation, preparing successful funding proposals in various; Excellent communication, networking and advocacy skills including effective oral and written presentation skills; Excellent English and a knowledge of the local language; Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work as part of a team; Ability to work under pressure and manage a broad, diverse workload; Computer literate and able to use standard software packages; Willingness to travel frequently within the country; Willingness to undergo Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT); Experience with Cluster coordination; Experience with Emergency Preparedness Plan and Response Plan Development; Valid CV and visa;

Duration: Fixed term positions based in Metro Manila - August 2012 – February 2013

- Collate CPE assessment analysis from both local and inter-country service station emergency responses in Philippines and other humanitarian actors in the Philippines. (Health and Nutrition, CPE personnel ready for mobilization during an emergency, Maintain database for recruitment, onboarding and mobilization of emergency response staff with CP for those identified CPE training for mobilization)

During an actual emergency response, will assume CP Country Office responsibility should the need to re-organize capacities exist.

HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER

Supporting Country Program's Emergency Preparedness Plan by strengthening the readiness of the HR component in case of an emergency or series of HR systems particular to an emergency response, both internal capacity of staff for readiness, and implementation thereof;

- Support HR needs during Country Program preparedness for emergency response and support to the Emergency Preparedness Plan. This includes but is not limited to recruitment processes, emergency roster development/ updates, benefits administration, onboarding, payroll, performance management, and staff care and support;
- Support HR needs during Country Program emergency response and support to the Emergency Preparedness Plan. This includes but is not limited to recruitment processes, emergency roster development/ updates, benefits administration, onboarding, payroll, performance management, and staff care and support;
- Update SCI's roster to include safety and security that facilitates mapping and alternative accommodations, coordinated plans and contingencies;
- Ensure systems that provide employee morale and wellness;

During an actual emergency response, will assume HR Officer responsibility for leading the emergency recruitment process including, but not limited to, recruitment, selection, onboarding, payroll, performance management, and staff care and support; Ensure systems that provide employee morale and wellness; Support HR needs during Country Program preparedness and response; Identify and develop pool of candidates; Coordinate and support recruitment and deployment of emergency response staff; Ensure that all staff and partners receive training on CPE and that all staff and partners have the knowledge and skills to implement relevant CPE activities; Ensure that all staff and partners have the knowledge and skills to implement relevant CPE activities; Ensure that all staff and partners have the knowledge and skills to implement relevant CPE activities;

Qualifications: Ability to work well in an interagency and in-country collaborative capacity; significant project management experience; Experience in working with partners and other agencies; Experience in working in emergency situations; Experience in the operations of inter-agency collaboration; capacity building, representation, preparing successful funding proposals in various; Excellent communication, networking and advocacy skills including effective oral and written presentation skills; Excellent English and a knowledge of the local language; Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work as part of a team; Ability to work under pressure and manage a broad, diverse workload; Computer literate and able to use standard software packages; Willingness to travel frequently within the country; Willingness to undergo Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT); Experience with Cluster coordination; Experience with Emergency Preparedness Plan and Response Plan Development; Valid CV and visa;

Duration: Fixed term positions based in Metro Manila - August 2012 – February 2013

- Collate HR assessment analysis from both local and inter-country service station emergency responses in Philippines and other humanitarian actors in the Philippines. (Health and Nutrition, HR personnel ready for mobilization during an emergency, Maintain database for recruitment, onboarding and mobilization of emergency response staff with CP for those identified HR training for mobilization)

During an actual emergency response, will assume HR Officer responsibility should the need to re-organize capacities exist.

FINANCE MANAGER

In collaboration with the Emergency Team Leader, the Finance Manager is responsible for all aspects of financial management in the emergency response operation, including the preparation of budgets, financial reporting, and ensuring compliance with Save the Children and donor policies and procedures.

As an emergency response operation, the Finance Manager will be required to work long hours and weekends. Duties include: Establishing internal and administrative systems; Maintaining records and supporting documentation; Overseeing cash flow projections; Overseeing payroll; Overseeing procurement; Overseeing logistics; Overseeing fixed assets; Overseeing human resources; Overseeing information technology; Overseeing security; Overseeing health and safety; Overseeing training; Overseeing monitoring and evaluation; Overseeing reporting; Overseeing compliance; Overseeing audit; Overseeing risk management; Overseeing business continuity; Overseeing disaster recovery; Overseeing crisis management; Overseeing emergency preparedness; Overseeing emergency response; Overseeing emergency recovery; Overseeing emergency development; Overseeing emergency transition; Overseeing emergency exit; Overseeing emergency evaluation; Overseeing emergency lessons learned; Overseeing emergency best practices; Overseeing emergency innovations; Overseeing emergency challenges; Overseeing emergency opportunities; Overseeing emergency risks; Overseeing emergency threats; Overseeing emergency vulnerabilities; Overseeing emergency capacities; Overseeing emergency resources; Overseeing emergency partnerships; Overseeing emergency networks; Overseeing emergency relationships; Overseeing emergency communications; Overseeing emergency media relations; Overseeing emergency public relations; Overseeing emergency advocacy; Overseeing emergency fundraising; Overseeing emergency donor relations; Overseeing emergency grant management; Overseeing emergency budget management; Overseeing emergency financial management; Overseeing emergency accounting; Overseeing emergency auditing; Overseeing emergency compliance; Overseeing emergency risk management; Overseeing emergency business continuity; Overseeing emergency disaster recovery; Overseeing emergency

AUGUST 14-20, 2007

WORKING PEOPLE

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Editor Jesse Francis R. Mañalac

Accountability is a Personal Responsibility

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilia

IN MARCH 2008, WILLIAM Jefferson Clinton (a.k.a. the husband of State Secretary Hillary Clinton) wrote, "My professor of ancient civilizations at Georgetown taught us that the United States became the greatest nation in history because our people had always believed in the two main pillars of Western civilization: that tomorrow can be better than today and that we all have a personal moral obligation to make it so."

Global crisis

In early September 2008, the federal government did not bail out investment banking firm Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. bankruptcy. That was only the beginning. In March 2009, stock values declined by 54% or $9 trillion, the largest drop since the 1930s. Then the bubble burst. Since failure is an orphan, no one wants to take the blame. But some analysts have their prognosis.

The Federal Reserve kept interest rates too low for too long and did not impose discipline on mortgage brokers. Investment bankers designed and sold trillions of dollars of mortgage-backed bonds and probably ten times more of derivatives to hedge credit default swaps). The market regulators, SEC and CFTC, did not immediately see what was happening in the capital markets. Congress also allowed rule-making and enabled government-sponsored enterprises to expand beyond the capacity of their capital. Security analysts failed to report huge credit risks in those transactions. Credit rating agencies continued to bestow AAA ratings on securitized loans in return for continued lucrative business. Bankers and consumers used the 2% metaphor for helping people and organizations realize the benefits of greater accountability. They said, "We've seen it over and over again. Whether it is a company on the most advanced line, or an organization languishing and on the brink of failure, performance invariably improves when people take greater accountability and ownership for results. We believe that people cannot be held accountable. Accountability makes them feel better. It empowers them to get amazing results. The 2% principle helps people become more accountable for their thoughts, feelings, actions, and results. They can then use it as a mechanism to own greater heights."

Negative meanings

Often, accountability can have negative meanings. In many surveys, people were asked how they define accountability. Some typical responses follow: "It is something that happens when things go wrong; an explanation as to why you did what you did; it's something that management does to you; it's a tool that management uses to pressure people to perform; it's another word for punishing people for poor performance; it's something that nobody does around here; it's something that is put on you by your boss and causes unnecessary pressure, fear, regret, guilt and resentment."

Sometimes, the word accountability truly denotes a sense: person holding a subordinate to his word or commitment, or to the budget or plan. In reality, most employees want to take more responsibility than accounts falls for their actions.

Accountability and responsibility

I personally like accountability, but it has some negative connotations. Accountability is more often merely lacking in many organizations that produce poor results. Perhaps, if we can find a better way to sell it to people, organizations might just be able to get better results.

I think I shall go more for responsibility. The connotation seems more individual and personal. While accountability is often what your boss gives to you, responsibility is what you feel from inside that you must do. It's more a matter of choice. To others, there's a whole of a difference.

When you want people to take responsibility for certain results, they can practice the basic human value of being true to one's word. When people are responsible, you need not be watching over their shoulders all the time. You feel that on their own, they will do what it takes to produce the results they are responsible for. When you remind them that they are responsible for certain results, you tend to make them accountable as their bosses for delivering those results.

Standards of responsibility

Leaders must learn the art of making people responsible. It is not enough to give them responsibility for results. Leaders must clarify the results expected from the individual, the role he must play, the jobs he is involved with, his job, the specific action he must perform, and the behaviors that he must manifest to demonstrate the organization's core values.

Good leaders point to the overall direction that the organization wants to go. Next, they tell the people the signs that they are getting there. Then, they clarify how each one can contribute to get the organization to where it wants to go. Finally, they tell the people what is in it for them when the organization gets to where it wants to be.

When these things are clarified properly, (without waiting for people to ask) and interactively (in contrast, one-way communication), people tend to be more responsible. The people become more responsible when they are clear about performance of their tasks and the consequences that can result from their action. On this aspect, there must be clarity, consistency and predictability.

Raising the bar

There seems to be no limit to what the human spirit can do. You've seen in the recent London Olympics how Phelps, Bolt and other world-class athletes broke or set records. Successful athletes always look forward to getting better. If not, they know that they will fall behind the competition. Knowing this and working at becoming better at creating value contribution is the hallmark of a responsible employee. When employment comes to be a mere means of livelihood and becomes a calling, employees want to be more committed, devoted and responsible.

Great organizations don't just have responsible team members – they also have responsible team leaders. Leaders must master the art of responsible accountability and governance. This includes helping their people discover the mindsets and behaviors of doing what is right for the organization – not just doing things right. Management gurus Ed think there's an unseen hand that moves people and events to great organizations.

In The Wealth of Nations, Adam Smith wrote, "Every individual intends only his own security; by directing his industry in such a manner as to produce by greatest value, he intends only his own gain but is led by an invisible hand to promote an end which was no part of his intention: promoting the interests of the society more effectively than when he really intends to promote it."

Ernie Cecilia is various capacities at the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM), Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) and the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) and other professional and non-governmental organizations (NGO's). In 2013, he was given recognition as Diplomate in People Management (DPM) and voted "Best Newspaper Columnist of the Year" (for his Sunday Inquirer column) by PMAP, where he was President in 1999. He is the President and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. His new books, "LifeVo Big Lessons" and "LifeVo Big Lies" are now available at book stores. He can be reached at ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com)

"Oops! Your slip is showing!": Negative attitudes shown in behaviors

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Josie O. Santamaria

I LIKE THE COMPANY where I'm now working for more than a year. The compensation is OK; I'm single and so it's adequate. However, I don't think I fit and I'm unhappy. My boss is distant to me and to me other members of our unit. I know I do excellent work (modesty aside) and I'm a hard worker, but my boss never compliments me. I don't know if I have been wise when I did what he asked us, his team, to do. In read his report to the management committee before submitting it, to make improvements in it and to give him suggestions. I made a list of corrections, using red ink, instead of checking me, he was again silent. When I had a chance to see his final report, I saw that he incorporated many of my corrections and suggestions, to be insecure?

During our weekly unit meetings, when I report or express my opinions when I'm called on when I volunteers, my boss and colleagues don't say anything. In fact I see some exchange glances. I feel I'm not saying my ideas during these meetings. I don't know what to do.

Mr. Unhappy and Confused

You want recognition from your boss for what you do so that you would know whether you are doing right and if he approves of it; instead, you only get silence. You want a "pat on the back" for the "excellent work" you do; again, silence. You want to have a sense of belonging to your team; instead they respond with indifference.

How about reflecting on your attitudes and the actions that they convey to the people with whom you work? You perceive yourself to be doing excellent work and a hard worker. With this self-image, you probably feel superior and show this non-verbally through your facial expressions (which you don't see), your gestures and body language, some of which you are unaware of. You may think you are hiding your feelings but everybody knows them from your behavior. Attitudes of arrogance and reassurance that we bring in our work may never matter when they are reflected in everything we do or don't do, in everything we say or don't say. They are seen and heard by others who give meaning to them.

Your attitudes (such as "I feel I'm just wasting my time during these meetings.") are written all over your face, proclaiming to the world what you think and feel about you, about them (your boss and your colleagues), about your unit, and their work contributions. When someone makes a mistake or something someone does goes wrong, how you react reveals much about you. Attitudes are always seen in everything you do: how you walk and talk, greet or don't greet others, make or don't smile, listen attentively when someone is speaking or not, etc. These negative attitudes and behaviors will get you ignored at best, or fired at worst. In fact, they will derail your career in the company.

The attitudes of your boss and your colleagues towards you are shown in three silence and in their exchange of glances. No matter how talented and hard working you think you are, your attitudes towards and interpersonal relationship with the people you work with play a great part in how you are perceived. Many of these are cited in your performance appraisal. Take a look at the performance appraisal form and read the items there. Evaluate yourself realistically on each item.

I suggest that you take a proactive stance and initiate interactions with your boss and with your colleagues. Remove from your mind that your boss is "distant" and that he never compliments you. Change your paradigm of him, think of him as someone who is simply busy and that he would make time to see you if you make an appointment also you are a part of his team.

Make an appointment with your boss. If he asks you for what reason, reply with: "I want to ask your suggestions, Sir, on how I can further improve my work and my ways." Be prepared by looking and reviewing the items in the performance appraisal form. On scheduled appointment, look happy, express your thanks to him for making time for you, express yourself assertively, and attentively listen to him when he speaks.

Get an opener, I suggest you say, "I want to ask you, Sir, how I can improve my work so that you can depend on my output." If he did his homework, he'll tell you many things. Even if you disagree with his feedback, accept them for that is how he sees you. Take down notes as you won't forget. Then summarize his suggestions to you.

As for treating positive feedback for the work you think you did well but about which you are not getting any compliment, I suggest you do the following proactive ways:

- Ask him for feedback your work (examples: your report, your presentation, correction) if he invited his team to do so.) Thank him.
- If he and your colleagues don't say anything positive, accept them for what they are. Then, they clarify how each one can contribute to get the organization to where it wants to go. Finally, they tell the people what is in it for them when the organization gets to where it wants to be.
- Give your colleagues positive feedback when it is their turn to present, to give an opinion, etc. Express sincere appreciation even if you don't get any from them.
- Give your boss sincere positive feedback, such as: "Thank you, Sir, for listening to me", or "Your explanation, Sir, of - - - was very clear to me. Thank you, Sir."

Be friendly to your colleagues. Make a list of friendly responses like smiling at them, greeting them with a smile, offering to help them, taking snacks with them in the pantry engaging them in small talk, showing interest in their family (if you are a family person on their talks), etc. Your boss during these ones if initially you don't get friendly reactions from them. They are still trying to have paradigm shifts about you.

Josie O. Santamaria is a professional psychologist, certified life coach, a career coach and management consultant. She is the president of Career Systems, Inc., a management and human resources training and consulting company, operating for the past 28 years. For more information about her and Career Systems, Inc., log on to www.careersystems.com.ph. She can be reached for work/career issues thru her email address josie@careersystems.com.ph)

Gospel: John 6:53-59
Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you."

Life within

By Bishop Precious Cantillas, SDB, DD

Jesus unequivocally speaks of a life within us that can only happen when we eat and drink His Body and Blood. This life within must be very important that He instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist for us and for all those who will pass through this world till the end of time. I think that it is then of utmost importance for us to know what is this life within and how we can relate our daily work to this divine life.

By our work, which for most of us is the means of livelihood, can and should contribute to our life within: our spiritual life, the life food meant for us, the evanescent. This is done by offering to God our daily work, giving all our strength and energy in doing our tasks at our prime and worshiping in the Source of our life and being. Such offering of our work can be done either personally through individual moments of prayers or formally through the celebration of and participation to the Holy Mass. The Offertory part of such celebration is the daily (weekly) act by which we symbolically the offering of their life and work in the form of cash or goods which are the fruits of his works. God in turn, accepting the offered work and life of the believer, transforms such gifts, sacramentally and truly into His body and blood, which the worker can eat, through Holy Communion. Thus, the worker becomes one with the Lord and shares His life within.

Jesus, who becomes the life of the worker, will slowly transform the worker into his likeness: more humble, faith and love, into a good, efficient and productive worker. I cannot imagine a worker who is united with Jesus but who would desire on his job, or perform irresponsibly his assigned tasks. The awareness of the worker of the presence of Jesus within his life and work will drive him to do well in his job.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Sir Kelly's heaven

By Teresa B. Tuvay, OCDS

Critics call Jesus' promise a "pie in the sky when you die," but now, live here. In order to live, eat His flesh and drink His blood. It's the promise of eternal life that in our preoccupation with's work seems very hard to believe, indeed, especially when you are more than down and out, and you don't see any life on more life, period. Thus, even when we claim to be believers since we go to church on Sundays, in reality we are impatient for results. Like Sir Kelly (Aquilino) who laughs, "Eternal life? I'll know what it is when I get there! I want my heaven now!"

Sir Kelly was named joking but he is more serious. Working very hard and being output oriented, he wants the fruit of his labor now—visible, tangible results! Usually, that fruit is something that gives immediate satisfaction, like cash and luxuries and things for his family that he thinks are worth striving for. That many Sir Kellys do you are around us? Plenty is unwise, and flourishing in the high profile occupations is that—ambitious drives once whose impatience leads them to corruption. Sir Kelly won't step at getting rich, he must have gold toys, too, behind his wife's back. He simply must have more and more of whatever he enjoys.

Sir Kelly can't see that eating "the flesh of the Son of Man" means more than swallowing that "don't-need-a-thing" he is given on birthday. But it means being nourished by His teachings and making Jesus alive in himself. Sir Kelly doesn't realize, either, that drinking his blood means braving hardship and suffering and saying "Enough!" and "Yes" to his enemies in order that others may also live. That, despite believing he is living abundantly, Sir Kelly is inwardly restless and at bedtime wonders what is still missing in his life.

Sir Kelly does not know that what's missing in his life is Life itself.

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Interested applicants can send their resume with updated photo and materials to excel@excelhrm.com or excelphil_hrm@yahoo.com. Or you may also contact/text/call Mrs. Ann Ajero for interview at Unit 301 Concourse Bldg., Alabang Zapote Road Las Piñas City. Tel No. 851-7577/Telefax: 8851-8341

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A well established and expansive publishing and printing company needs the following:

PERSONNEL RELATIONS & RECRUITMENT OFFICER

- M/F, Single, minimum Rate 21 years old
- BS Psychology or Human Resource Management graduate
- Experience in psychological testing is an advantage
- With good communication and interpersonal skills
- Capable of multi-tasking

WRITERS / EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

- M/F, Single, not over 28 years old
- Degree Holder of one of the following:
  - BS Math major in Pure Math / Applied Math
  - AB Major Courses (Major in Journalism / Development Communication)
  - BS Computer Science, Computer Engineering, BS Information Technology and any IT related courses
  - BSE (MINOR major in English, Filipino, Mathematics, Science & Social Studies)
- Computer proficient in proficiency in MAC applications
- With teaching / writing experience

SALES REPRESENTATIVES / TRAINEES

- Male, not over 28 years old
- College graduate, preferably with a degree in Marketing, Communications, Arts or Education
- To be assigned in major cities and provinces (Luzon, Visayas & Mindanao), preferably a local members of the assigned area
- Possess good interpersonal and communication skills
- Computer literate and can drive
- At least 5'5" in height
- Willing to undergo training
- Part-time / OJT also welcome to applicants

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- M/F, Single, not over 28 years old
- Graduate of Accountancy
- Minimum of least 1 - 3 years work-related experience
- With pleasing personality
- Computer proficient

PRODUCTION / PRINTING SUPERVISOR

- College graduate
- Male, not more than 35 years of age
- At least 5'5" in height
- Has least in the printing industry for at least 5 years
- Willing to work in night shift
- Has at least 3 years of experience in supervision of printing operation

IN-LINE FINISHING OPERATOR

- College graduate
- Male, not more than 35 years of age
- At least 5'5" in height
- Preferably with Collating, Binding and Trimming experience
- Willing to work in night shift

WEB DEVELOPERS

- M/F, Single, not over 28 years old
- Graduate of any IT related / Computer course
- With knowledge and demonstrated experience in HTML5, CSS3, JQuery, Java Script, ASP Integration & PHP
- At least 2 to 3 years work-related experience
- Preferable with cPanel knowledge

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- M/F, Single, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of any I.T. related / Multimedia course
- Has experience in interface design for mobile and web applications

LIBRARIAN AND RESEARCHER

- M/F, Single, not over 28 years old
- Library & Information Science graduate
- With at least 2 years work experience
- With background on Integrated Library Information System
- Knowledgeable on online information database systems

Applicants should have good interpersonal communication skills and preferably resort-inclusive(s).

Qualified candidates may submit e-mail their latest resumé with recent 2x2 I.D. photo and Transcript of Records at:

THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
PHILSTAR GLOBE CORP.
E-mail: hr@philstarglobe.com

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PROJECT MANAGER

- CIVIL ENGINEER WITH MINIMUM OF 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN DESIGN AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT
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EMAIL RESUMÉ TO: helen_rp@ymail.com

CHEMONICS

Chemonics International, a leading international consulting firm based in Washington, D.C., seeks local firms/private-sector leaders, technical specialists, and project staff for a five-year, USAID funded anti-corruption and economic growth project in the Philippines aimed at reducing the risks of corruption to investments and trade and by promoting open and fair competition. Activities will focus on increasing the enforcement capabilities of the Philippine government's anti-corruption institutions, reducing opportunities for public sector corruption, and strengthening corporate governance in the private and public sectors.

We seek the following specialists with interest and prior experience in:

- **Legal Reform and Anti-Corruption Team Leader;****
- **Transparency and Anti-Corruption Team Leader;****
- Legal reform specialist
- Civil rights lawyer
- Prosecution and investigation specialist
- Forensic and Audit Specialist
- Human resource
- Business process specialist
- Anti-Corruption Training Specialist
- Finance manager (3-5 years working on a USG funded project as a finance manager)
- Procurement and Works/Contracts specialist (3-5 years working as a donor funded project as a procurement and grants/administrative manager)
- Gender specialist (2-3 years experience with gender integration with the GPH or with a donor funded project)

**Qualifications for Team Leader positions:

- Minimum 8 years of private experience in designing and implementing/managing technical assistance in the areas of rule of law, anticorruption enforcement, public sector management, or enforcement in general; previous experience working with and consulting government agencies preferred.

Qualifications:

- Minimum 8 years experience on a USAID or similar donor funded project manager preferred
- Advanced degree in law, public administration, government, or other related field required
- Experience interacting with host government agencies (such as anti-corruption commission)
- Demonstrated experience in capacity building and team-driven training in the area of anti-corruption and transparency
- Understanding of public sector development, accountability and risk assessment mechanisms, public awareness and advocacy activities, and corporate governance in the Philippines
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility, and integrity
- Fluent English required

These positions are open to Filipino citizens only. Please send electronic submission to **chemonicsphilippines@yahoo.com** by August 31, 2012, indicating **the position title** in the subject line of your e-mail. Please send a cover letter and resumé. **Please note that only applications that meet the position title in the subject line and do not meet minimum requirements will not be reviewed.** Possible call-in, contacted.

CHEMONICS

Deputy Chief of Party

Chemonics International, a leading international consulting firm based in Washington, D.C., seeks **a Deputy Chief of Party** for a five-year, USAID funded anti-corruption and economic growth project in the Philippines aimed at reducing the costs of corruption to investments and trade and by promoting open and fair competition. Activities will focus on increasing the enforcement capabilities of the Philippine government's anti-corruption institutions, reducing opportunities for public sector corruption, and strengthening corporate governance in the private and public sectors.

Responsibilities include:

- Plan and develop program activities
- Provide overall substantial knowledge of the Philippine anticorruption environment and leverage networks to achieve project's objectives, goals, and tasks
- Supervise staff, short-term consultants, and coordinates to ensure efficient and effective activity implementations
- Manage program's monitoring and evaluation activities
- Market program activities
- Oversee the development and distribution of program information, including reporting, success stories, and other high-visibility communications material

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in management, law, international development, monitoring and evaluation, public administration, business management, accounting, financial management, or related field preferred
- Demonstrated technical knowledge in preventing corruption, including public sector corruption, improving anticorruption enforcement, improving corporate governance, or similar areas
- Five to 10 years of experience managing similar projects
- Superb managerial skills and ability to ensure financial and administrative efficiency
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility, and integrity
- Strong project management and communications skills
- Ability to work with a diverse group of stakeholders, including counterparts, donors, and private-sector companies
- Fluency in written and spoken English required

Please send electronic submissions to **chemonicsphilippines@yahoo.com** by August 31, 2012, indicating **the position title** in the subject line of your e-mail. Please send a cover letter and resumé. **Please note that only applications that meet the position title in the subject line and do not meet minimum requirements will not be reviewed.** Possible call-in, contacted.

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
KOREAN CULTURAL CENTER

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Male or female under 35 with a degree from a reputable university. Fluent in English and Filipino, preferably with experience in administrative or media and human relations in NGO/office applications.

Please send your curriculum vitae/resumé (which includes personal background, education, work experience and skills) with a 2x2 photo taken within three months by mail or email not later than August 27, 2012. Incomplete applications will not be processed. Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.

29 Manor Corporate Center, 32nd Street,
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Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

THE HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Avenue, Formerly Pasong Tamo
Corner Yague and Marconi Streets, Makati City
e-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

De La Salle University
is looking for a

Marketing Coordinator

He/She will handle the planning, coordination, and implementation of marketing communication programs and initiatives. He/She will spearhead the planning, development, promotion, sale, and monitoring of offered merchandise, among other responsibilities.

A bachelor's degree in Marketing, Communication Arts, Advertising, or related courses is required. Must have excellent oral and written communication skills, knowledgeable in project, and events management, capable of creative campaigning and program execution, and capable of handling multiple projects simultaneously.

Interested applicants should submit their resumé, transcript of records, and two identical 2" x 2" photos not later than **August 31, 2012.**

Send application to:

The Director for Operations
Office for Strategic Communications
De La Salle University
2401 Taft Avenue, Manila 1004
or e-mail to jingo.bedillo@dlsumail.ph

The country's *most widely read and circulated* newspaper is in need of:

INQUIRER

AUDIT SUPERVISOR

- Certified Public Accountant
- Preferably with PRC ID/s
- At least 1-3 years exposure in accounting and audit work
- With knowledge of General Accounting and Auditing Principles and Procedures
- Knowledge of Standards for Professional Practice of Internal Auditing
- Knowledge of Financial Ratio Analysis, Taxation, Labor Laws
- Leadership and Analytical Skills
- With directly reports to the Audit Head

PRODUCT MANAGER

- College graduate; preferably Business courses or any related course
- At least 5 years of product development experience in fast moving consumer goods
- With experience in Brand Management experience in Market Research - will be an advantage
- With knowledge/s with hands-on of layout/ marketing – product, price, promotion and placement strategies
- Must have good negotiation, business writing skills, analysis, planning, organization monitoring and project management/implementation
- Leadership, communication and delegation skills
- Able to travel and conduct market research

NETWORK/SYSTEMS ENGINEER

- College graduate preferably Computer Science, Computer Engineering or Electronics Communications Engineering
- At least 1 year experience in IP Routing
- Knowledge of concepts in computer networking, switch and internet administration
- Server Administration and Development
- SQL2K Network, SQL Database, Linux, MS Visio Scripting, DNS

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

- College graduate preferably Fine Arts
- At least 1 year experience as Graphic Designer
- At least 1 year experience in Illustrations
- Knowledge in Photoshop, Illustrator, CorelDraw

PHOTOGRAPHER

- College Graduate preferably Fine Arts or Journalism OR Mass Communication major in Photography
- At least 1 years solid experience as photographer in Publication or Mass agencies (Newspaper or Magazine)
- 21 completed Visual Literacy Courses

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Drop your resume and fill-up an application form at the ABS-CBN Office to attend an ABS-CBN Employment Fair at Ayala Avenue, Brgy. Bel-Air, Makati City on September 15, 2012 from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

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IRRI

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ASSISTANT MANAGER I - ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Reference Code: RAS-2012-175-EP

The successful candidate will plan, direct and coordinate the activities of the Accounts Receivable Section within the Financial Operations Unit and ensures that receivables from employees and institutions debtors other than donors are properly controlled and in compliance with Memorandum of Understanding and Institute policies and guidelines.

Education / Experience

- University degree in Bachelor of Science in Business Administration major in Accounting, preferably a CPA
- At least 3 years experience in a multinational or non-profit oriented firm on supervisory level
- Confidentiality and high standard of integrity
- Excellent inter-personal skills and ability to deal with stressful situations
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

Application Process

Screening will start on 10 September 2012 and will continue until a suitable candidate has been found.

Interested candidates can apply on-line at http://bit.ly/applyirri or can send application to IRRIrecruitment@irri.org. Please indicate the position title and reference code in the e-mail subject line. IRRI regrets that only short listed candidates will be contacted.

Join Us to Deliver Rice Science for a Better World

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is seeking for talented, highly motivated to work at its headquarters in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines for the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). IRRI is a non-profit, scientific research and development organization engaged in rice research and dissemination of rice-related technologies, knowledge and expertise with the goal of improving the welfare of present and future generations of resource-poor rice farmers. This attractive career offers flexible, highly competitive benefits, and generous secondary compensation. We strongly encourage women applicants.

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(0905) 386-4486
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www.jasonmaaph.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the incorporators of

"ATLAS ENTERPRISES"

with principal office at #5222 Compound, Bank Santa, Catanduanes City, Bicol Region, Philippines, has applied with the SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION and was issued SEC Registration No. CS201218888 for the primary purpose of engaging in the business of trading of goods and services.

Please direct all correspondence, orders, invoices etc. to the main company Principal Transaction Area under the full company will automatically be transferred to the new address.

Thank you.

BENIGNO THOMAS F. JUSON
General Manager

PN - August 19, 2012

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Job Market is published every Sunday by the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Access it online at www.jobmarket.inquirer.net

dti

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to bids for supply and delivery of the following project:

Name of Bid Project	Supply, Delivery and Installation of Computer Packages and PCs for Regional Offices
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	PHP1,248,000.00
Source of Funds	Regular Agency Fund
Delivery/Completion Period	Within Forty-Five (45) calendar days after receipt of Notice to Proceed

Bidders should have completed, within Three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an equipment shall be understood as similar to a contract involving the supply, delivery and installation of computer packages and PCs.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Publication of Invitation to Bid (Government Philippine Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) website and DTI website)	Starting August 20, 2012 (Monday)
2. Pre - bid Conference	August 27, 2012 (Monday) at 2:00 PM at the DTI Conference Room, 4th Floor, DTI Main Building, Makati City
3. Submission of Opening of Bids	10 September 2012, 1:30 PM for Submission and 2:00 PM for Opening at the DTI Conference Room, 4th Floor, DTI Main Building, Makati City

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to corporations or associations duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), at least sixty percent (60%) of whose capital is owned by such citizens; or to cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA).

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The DTI reserves its responsibility/prerogative to disqualify any bidder or to waive the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Board Secretariat
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
Department of Trade and Industry
3/F Trade and Industry Building
361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Telephone Nos. 890-7501 to 07 local 2106 Fax No. 890-6656
e-mail Address: makatibac@dti.gov.ph

(SGD.) EMMA C. MACLAS
Chairperson

PN - July 15, 2012

DBP extends relief assistance in Bulacan and Navotas

STATE-OWNED DEVELOPMENT BANK of the Philippines (DBP) conducted relief operations for more than 600 families affected by floods and heavy rains caused by the southwest monsoon recently in Hagbol, Bulacan & Navotas City.

DBP president & chief executive officer Francisco F. Del Rosario headed a team of bank officials and employees in distributing relief goods consisting of pails, rice, bottled water, blankets, coffee, and sugar to 444 families in Hagbol, Bulacan. A soup kitchen was also organized for 1,300 residents in the area.

DBP chief operating officer Edgardo Garcia, on the other hand, headed a group of bank officials and employees that brought relief goods to 164 families in Dagat-Dagatan, Navotas City. A feeding program also benefited 500 individuals in the said area.

DBP president & chief executive officer Francisco F. Del Rosario, Jr. leads the distribution of relief goods in Hagbol, Bulacan. (left photo). DBP chief operating officer Edgardo Garcia (in striped shirt) gives a pack of relief goods to a flood victim (right photo).

INVITATION TO BID

Procurement of Security Services

The BUREAU STARCH, DEVEL. (BSD) BAC, through its Chairman, intends to apply the sum of Two Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00) being the ABC to payments under the contract for Procurement of Security Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The BUREAU STARCH, DEVEL. (BSD) BAC now invites bids for the above Procurement Project. Delivery of the Services is required within 30 days. Bidders should have completed, within the last three years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an equipment shall be understood as similar to a contract involving the supply, delivery and installation of computer packages and PCs.

Lot	Item	Approved Budget for the Contract	Source of Funds/ Accounting	Date of Delivery
Lot A	Mobile Apps	P 500,000.00	P 500,000	60 Delivery Days, 10, 2012
Lot B	Mobile Launcher	P 500,000.00	P 500,000	60 Delivery Days, 10, 2012
Lot C	Computer Supply and Mobile Delivery Services	P 500,000.00	P 500,000	September 10, 2012

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to corporations or associations duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), at least sixty percent (60%) of whose capital is owned by such citizens; or to cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA).

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The BSD reserves its responsibility/prerogative to disqualify any bidder or to waive the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PROCUREMENT ACTIVITY	DATE/TIME	VENUE
Pre-Bid Conference	August 20, 2012 (10:00 a.m.)	Bureau of Starch Development Conference Room
Opening of Bids	September 3, 2012 (10:00 a.m.)	Bureau of Starch Development Conference Room

For further information, please refer to:

Bureau of Starch Development
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
Bureau of Starch Development Building
Starch Avenue, Starch Development Center
Telephone Nos. 8888-8888 local 8888 Fax No. 8888-8888
e-mail Address: bacsec@bsd.gov.ph

(SGD.) ATTY. MARIA CRISTINA C. GUTIERREZ
Chairperson

PN - August 19, 2012

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"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from the death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us along with you, to God." — 2 Corinthians 4:14

We, the family of our beloved Papa,

MANUEL "Manoling" CARAG MALLILLIN

January 03, 1925– August 16, 2012

Would like to express our thanks to all those people who made his earthly life meaningful and joyous. May we always remember PAPA with fond memories and thoughts of his good love for all of us. Let us join to prepare for his final rest and fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank love and thanks from beloved wife **ORMING** and children, with grandchildren: **Ronie, Alma** & *Mirabelle & Justice Andrew & Leo, Analiza & Lazarus Andrew; Abbie, Ali Anne, Cindy & Khaiah, Jeremy & Jacob, Lori, Junjun & Celeste; mr. Edsel & Andrea Alec, Elmo & Sandra; Noemi & Alan; Junjun & Abbie, Myrna, Mario & Jeremy Alvin, Jacob Ann Maye, Perrin Lou, Jerwin Lou Isabelle & Isa Mirasa; Pia & Cassidy, Ali & Asia, Kathy & Alan, Cathy, Chesterie & Mel, Lyka Lester Lisa & Elijah Maria; Mike & Jhun, Charlotte & Justin; Jhun & Cora, Ty, Tiffany & Mr. Jeremy & Cherry; and Marie, Kyle & Clare.*

The remains lie in state at the Francisco A Chapel, Loyola Memorial Park Marikina, and interment will be on Saturday, August 25, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- 6 Copy of Death Certificate
- 6 Any identification document (I.D.)

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"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."

John 11:25-26

"Come and let us return to the Lord, for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has smitten, but He will bind us up."
— Hosea 6:1

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VII-CENTRAL VISAYAS
DIVISION OF CEBU PROVINCE
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City

DepED

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of the Philippines (DOP) has received a Special Fund and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds thereof to cover eligible payments under the contract for which this Invitation to Bid is issued. The DOP now invites bids for the following Supply and Delivery Projects. Bidders should be prequalified for the contract as follows:

Project No.	Name	Location	Short Description	Contract Duration
1	Danasan PS	Dalaguete, Cebu	Construction of Two (2) Storey Four (4) Classroom Building (New Building) with Toilet and Water Facility and Other Facilities (Phase 1)	90 CD
2	Bonbon ES Cabu-an ES	Asturias, Cebu Asturias, Cebu	Construction of Two (2) Storey Four (4) Classroom Building (New Building) with Toilet and Water Facility and Other Facilities (Phase 1)	90 CD
3	Poblacion (Pob.)	Balamban, Cebu	Construction of Two (2) Storey Four (4) Classroom Building (New Building) with Toilet and Water Facility and Other Facilities (Phase 1)	90 CD
4	Tabogon (Pob.)	Tabogon, Cebu	Construction of Two (2) Storey Four (4) Classroom Building (New Building) with Toilet and Water Facility and Other Facilities (Phase 1)	90 CD

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the Division Office of Cebu Province now invites bids for the above contracts. Bidders should have completed a similar contract within the period five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty (60%) citizenship or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders shall submit their letter of intent within the first seven days from the date of advertisement of the said project at the PROCUREMENT Bulletin. Only bidders that signified their intention to participate via the PHILGEPS website during the 7-day posting are considered for the opening. Prospective bidders must present their valid PCAB license during their submission of their Letter of Intent. In cases wherein a bidder sends a representative to purchase the documents or attend the opening they must submit a duly signed and notarized Special Power of Attorney.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address and upon payment of the non-refundable fee for the bidding documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos Only (Php5,000.00) per bidder.

The Department of Education – Division of Cebu will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on August 24, 2012, 09:00 a.m. at the Library Hub, Department of Education – Division of Cebu, Division Office, Nivel Hermosa City which shall be open to all interested parties.

Bids must be delivered to the bids' Secretariat/s, Armando A. Cartagena, at or before August 31, 2012, 09:00 a.m. at the Library Hub, Department of Education – Division of Cebu, Division Office, Nivel Hermosa City. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be opened.

The Department of Education – Division of Cebu reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

ARMANDO A. CARTAGENA – Administrative Officer III
Office of The Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
Department of Education – Division of Cebu
Nivel Hermosa City (032) 416-0332

(Sgd.) DR. ARMANDO I. TOLEDO
Bids and Awards Committee Chairman

(BAC – August 19, 2012)

For the Division Office of Cebu Province only: please further information from the Division Office of Cebu Province and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00AM to 5:00PM:

Activity	Date and Time	Venue
Issuance of Bidding Documents	August 20, 2012 8:00AM	Depot Division of Cebu Province
Pre-Bid Conference	August 24, 2012, 9:30am	Depot Division of Cebu Province
Submission and Opening of Bids	September 03, 2012, 10:00am	Depot Division of Cebu Province

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by the interested bidders on accommodation address upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the bidding documents in the amount of Php5,000.00 (Five Thousand Pesos). The bidder's duly accredited representative may present Php5,000.00 cashier's check.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, as applicable, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of Two (2) percent of the ABC in the form of cash or cashier's/manager's check, Bank Draft/guarantee or irrevocable letter of credit; or in the amount of Five (5) percent of the bid amount in the form of surety bond callable on demand.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representative who choose to attend at the address mentioned in the bids' deliver. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

MENCHA GRACE D. MALAGAR
BAC Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City
(032) 255-6405

(Sgd.) **ARMANDO CORTINES**
BAC Chairperson
And Schools Division Superintendent

(BAC – May 19, 2012)

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C.Y. 2012 1ST BATCH PROCMI (SAAN ARALAN PROJECT)

CLUSTER 3-SB-2012

Project	:	Construction of 2 storey, 4 classroom at Kanugayan ES, Mandaci, Cawitz
Allocation	:	PhP3,203,440.00
Completion of Works	:	120 days

1. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty (60%) citizenship or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
2. Interested bidders shall submit their letter of intent within the first seven days from the date of advertisement of the said project at the PROCUREMENT Bulletin. Only bidders that signified their intention to participate via the PHILGEPS website during the 7-day posting are considered for the opening. Prospective bidders must present their valid PCAB license during their submission of their Letter of Intent. In cases wherein a bidder sends a representative to purchase the documents or attend the opening they must submit a duly signed and notarized Special Power of Attorney.
3. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address and upon payment of the non-refundable fee for the bidding documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos Only (Php5,000.00) per bidder.
4. The Department of Education – Division of Cawitz will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on August 24, 2012, 09:00 a.m. at the Library Hub, Department of Education – Division of Cawitz, Division Office, Nivel Hermosa City which shall be open to all interested parties.
5. Bids must be delivered to the bids' Secretariat/s, Armando A. Cartagena, at or before August 31, 2012, 09:00 a.m. at the Library Hub, Department of Education – Division of Cawitz, Division Office, Nivel Hermosa City. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be opened.
6. The Department of Education – Division of Cawitz reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
7. For further information, please refer to:

ARMANDO A. CARTAGENA – Administrative Officer III
Office of The Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
Department of Education – Division of Cawitz
Nivel Hermosa City (046) 416-0332

(Sgd.) DR. ARMANDO I. TOLEDO
Bids and Awards Committee Chairman

(BAC – August 19, 2012)

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E: japanjobs@gmail.com
(Office hours: Monday – Friday from 9 am to 6 pm)

www.japanjobs.org
Info Office: Tokyo, Shinagawa-ku, Nishigotanda 1-28-7 City Trust 6F
http://www.japanjobs.org.jp/

For Educators, log on to: **www.jobmarketonline.com**

DepED

INVITATION TO BID

Item No.	Item Description	Qty
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

Sgd.
Chairman, BAC

(BAC – August 19, 2012)

NEECO II AREA 1

INVITATION TO SUBMIT BID PROPOSAL

To all Prospective Bidders:

Nueva Ecija II Area 1 Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO II Area 1), in compliance with the guidelines of the Energy Regulatory Commission, invites interested parties to participate in the bidding or competitive selection process for the supply of energy requirements to its franchise area commencing the period of August 26, 2012 to August 25, 2013.

Interested parties must submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) by hand to the NEECO II Area 1 Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). The LOI, signed by an authorized representative, shall state the full name, address, telephone, email address and the nominated of the principal party and name of the principal contact. It must be delivered by hand and be received by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) at the NEECO II Area 1 main office with address at Mabini-ex Highway, Caliligawan, Talavera, Nueva Ecija not later than 12:00 noon, on September 7, 2012.

The details of the bidding or competitive selection process are contained in the bidding document, which interested parties must secure from BAC Secretary, Geraldine Reyes, during office hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) from August 20, 2012 to September 7, 2012, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php15,000.00).

Only interested parties that submit the LOI on time and who have been issued and have paid for the RFP will be qualified to participate.

(Sgd.) **EULALIA H. CASTRO** (Sgd.) **ENGR. NELSON H. DELA CRUZ**
General Manager Chairman, BAC

(BAC – August 19, 2012)

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BRIGHTSKIES
TRAVEL AND TOURS, INC.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to give notice to the public that MARIA ROSARIO ISABEL "MARISSA" CARBALLO of blk. 170, St. Palermo St., San Juan City, Metro Manila, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with BRIGHTSKIES TRAVEL AND TOURS, INC. (BTTI) as 2nd Floor, Eo Shee Tower, 30 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, effective March 21, 2012.

As such, she is not anymore authorized to conduct any business in the name of BTTI. Accordingly, any transactions made by her in the name of BTTI starting March 21, 2012, will no longer be honored by the Company.

She has a pending criminal case before the Office of the City Prosecutor, Quezon City.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

JEROME B. CANLAS

The above-mentioned person is no longer connected with MBT Customs Brokerage/MBT International Freight Forwarder, Inc. since July 3, 2012 and that any representation, transaction and negotiation made or entered into by Mr. Canlas will no longer be recognized by the Company.

MBT filed a complaint against Mr. Canlas before the City Prosecutor of Lilongapo City under IS #16-IS-INV-126-00808.

Any information about him and his whereabouts can be relayed to MBT Human Resources Department (CO) 896-2196, (CO) 896-1268, (02) 897-1001, (02)896-1310, (02) 855-8535.

Model/Unwanted Problems?

Dr. Ely Lacson Medical Clinic
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Cell: 0917-5-912-4197
Sales Hotline: Globe/Smart

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Interested applicants are requested to apply in person at:
2nd Floor, Mitsubishi Motors Bldg.
Gen. Maxilom Ave. Ext. cor. Juan Luna St.
Cebu City

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VII Central Visayas
DIVISION OF CEBU PROVINCE
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City

DepED

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education intends to apply the sum of Twenty Six Million Seventeen Thousand Two Hundred Pesos only (Php 26,017,200.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contracts for the works described below for the calendar months in the Division of Cebu Province as follows:

Cluster	District	Municipality	Scope of Works	ABC	Duration
1	San Fernando (South) ES	San Fernando	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
	San Isidro ES	San Fernando	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Cansojong ES	San Fernando	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Jugan ES	San Fernando	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Tinaan ES	San Fernando	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Tungkil ES	San Fernando	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Binalayan ES	Minglanilla	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Tuyom-tuyom (Agsi) ES	Minglanilla	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Mainit-init ES	Minglanilla	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Vito ES	Minglanilla	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
2	Cebu ES	Talisay City	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1	2,700,000.00	120 C.D.
	Biasong ES	Talisay City	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Bonbon-on ES	Talisay City	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Dumlog ES	Talisay City	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Lagtang-Lawaan ES	Talisay City	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Manipis ES	Talisay City	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Tabunoc ES	Talisay City	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Tapul ES	Talisay City	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Tanke ES	Talisay City	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
3	Babag ES	Argao	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1	2,700,000.00	120 C.D.
	Lamac ES	Argao	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Lanao ES	Argao	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Mantalongon ES	Argao	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Nug-as ES	Argao	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Sohoton ES	Argao	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Tabionan ES	Argao	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Tambis ES	Dalaguete	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Tuburan (Aplaya) ES	Dalaguete	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
4	Alegria ES	Bantayan	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
	Binaobao (Doldol) ES	Bantayan	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Botigues ES	Bantayan	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Hilotongan ES	Bantayan	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Kabac ES	Bantayan	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Kampingganon ES	Madridejos	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Kangkaibe ES	Madridejos	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Malbago ES	Madridejos	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Pili ES	Santa Fe	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Poblacion ES	Santa Fe	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
5	Bagakay ES	Daanbantayan	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1	2,741,200.00	120 C.D.
	Bailan ES	Daanbantayan	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Bugtong Bato ES	Daanbantayan	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Hagnaya ES	Daanbantayan	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Kabangbang ES	Daanbantayan	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Kabangkalan ES	Daanbantayan	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Kabangkalan Norte ES	Daanbantayan	1 Classroom Toilet Type 1		
	Kabangkalan Sur

Republic of the Philippines
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION
5th Floor, Titanium Building, #103-D Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 929-5237/24-7900; Website: http://prrc.com.ph;
E-mail Address: pasigprrc@yahoo.com.ph

Invitation to Bid for
Construction and Development of Poblacion Linear Park (235 Linear Meters)

1. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, through the Internal Appropriations Act FY 2012 (Republic Act 10155) intends to apply the sum of Php 4,000,000.00 being the approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Construction and Development of Poblacion Linear Park (PRRC no. 2012-01-01) – 235 Linear Meters** with contract no. PRRC-2012-01. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission now invites bids for the following project elements:

Work Description	Qty	Unit
Civil works	1	lot
Landscaping/Softscapes	1	lot
Electrical Works	1	lot
Park Equipment	1	lot

Completion of the Works is required 90 calendar days (contract duration). Bidders should have completed, within five (10) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below, Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos Only (Php 10,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and this website of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, provided that bidders shall pay the fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on August 28, 2012, 2:00 pm, at the address mentioned below, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before September 10, 2012, 10:00 am. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to reject the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
9. For further information, please refer to:

Engr. Glen Sinkador
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
5th Floor, Titanium Building, #103 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone no. +632 929 5237
E-mail Address: pasigprrc@yahoo.com.ph
Telefax no. + 632 926 02 37
Website Address: www.prrc.com.ph

(Sgd.) **MR. EIMON L. AGUILON**
Bids Chairperson

(PR) – August 19, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VII-Central Visayas
DIVISION OF CEBU PROVINCE
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City

DepEd

INVITATION TO BID

The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the **AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT** through the **AUSTRALIAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AusAID)** and intends to apply **MORE THAN ONE MILLION PESOS (P1,000,000.00)** of the **PHILIPPINE EDUCATION SYSTEMS SUPPORT** under the project called Classroom Construction, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds under the contract as follows:

Lot/Bid No.	School	Location	Item Description	Contract Duration
1	Bantayan Elementary School	Bantayan, Cebu	Construction of Two (2) Storey, Four(4) Classroom School Building	150 DC

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the **Division Office of Cebu Province** now invites bids for the above Procurement Project. Bidders should have completed, within the last five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Division Office of Cebu Province and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by the interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos Only (Php 10,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, provided that bidders shall pay the fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

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For further information, please refer to:

Engr. Glen Sinkador
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
5th Floor, Titanium Building, #103 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone no. +632 929 5237
E-mail Address: pasigprrc@yahoo.com.ph
Telefax no. + 632 926 02 37
Website Address: www.prrc.com.ph

(Sgd.) **MR. EIMON L. AGUILON**
Bids Chairperson

(PR) – August 19, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VII-Central Visayas
DIVISION OF CEBU PROVINCE
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City

DepEd

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Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Division Office of Cebu Province and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by the interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos Only (Php 10,000.00).

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For further information, please refer to:

ENGR. GLEN SINKADOR
BAC Secretariat
Division Office of Cebu Province
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City
Tel 032-233-4547

(Sgd.) **LUDIVINA M. CORRIENTE**
Bids Chairperson
Asst. Schools Division Superintendent

(PR) – Aug. 19, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3/F Andanar Plaza II, Roxy Panes, Osmeña Cty
Telefax Nos. (032) 233-3322
August 13, 2012

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Functions
1.	TRANSWIDE PRECISION DEVICES PHILIPPINES CORPORATION (Japan Technopark, Mtbac, Laguna)	Mr. Hideyuki Suzuki (Japanese)	Assistant General Manager for Finance Department
2.	SOUTHERN APPAREL (Dressage Compound, Calamba St., Mintal, Davao City)	Ms. Wenwei Cao (Chinese)	Manager
3.	NISSIN PRECISION PHILIPPINES CORPORATION (PEZA Sta. Rosa, Laguna)	Mr. Kenichiro Yasuda (Japanese)	Managing Director
4.	FUMOSO SECRET PROCESSOR MACHINES, INC. (Saudi Industrial Park, Mamplasan, Biñan, Laguna)	Mr. Tatsuo Takagi (Japanese)	General Consultant
5.	YMF MANUFACTURING INTERNATIONAL CORP. (YMF Bldg. Batino, Calamba City, Laguna)	Mr. Steven Robert Wallenstein (British)	Director of Operations
6.	SHINSHO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION (PEZA-EC Cavalry Drive, Cainta, Cavite)	Mr. Hiroyo Ryo (Japanese)	Treasurer
7.	CANON BUSINESS MACHINES (PHILIPPINES), INC. (PEZA Sta. Rosa, Laguna)	Ms. Fumiaki Yamashima (Japanese)	Corporate Planning
8.	CANON BUSINESS MACHINES (PHILIPPINES), INC.	Mr. Masaharu Shoji (Japanese)	Logistics Manager
9.	SUN HYUN CORPORATION (Batangas Road, Cavite)	Mr. Bong Ik Lee (Korean)	Assistant Manager
10.	GLOBAL WELDING TECHNOLOGY, INC. (PEZA, Rosario, Cavite)	Ms. Yolanda Balcena (Filipino/Japanese)	Production Advisor
11.	PHILAM BANK (SAN JUAN BRANCH) (CCE Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan)	Ms. Ha Ri Jin aka Park (Korean)	Marketing Manager
12.	KOREA GLOBAL ENTERPRISES (LEC Realty, Cavite)	Mr. Seunghyeong Im (Korean)	Marketing Manager

If you have any information/opinion in the above mentioned applications, please communicate with the Regional Director.

ALEX N. AVILA, CESO III
OIC-Regional Director

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REI)

The Department of Health, through its Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (CObAC), invites Consulting Firms/Individual Consultants to apply for eligibility and shortlisting for the Indicative projects funded by the Government of the Philippines (GOP):

Name of Project	Brief Description of the Project	Type	Approved Budget for the Contract (Phil. Peso)
Hiring of Consultancy Services for the Software Enhancement and Customization and Data Transmission of the Integrated Drug Test Operations and Management Information System – Retest (REI-CS-GOP-2012-42)	To enhance the existing DTOMIS version 6.0 to version 10.0 and implement accordingly through provision of maintenance and operational support within a specified time frame	Firm	Php1,500,000.00
Hiring of Consultancy Services for Training Program on Drug Dependence Appropriate for Basic Accredited Physicians, Rehabilitation Workers and Regulatory Officers (REI-CS-GOP-2012-43)	To: (1) Conduct the Training Program on Drug Dependence specifically for Physicians, Rehabilitation Workers, and Regulatory Officers; (2) Print out the Training Program of Rehabilitation Workers and Regulatory Officers; and to finalize the Training Guide and Participant's Manual and the Training Module; and (3) Finalize the Training Guide and Participant's Manual of the Training Program on Drug Dependence for Rehabilitation Workers and Regulatory Officers	Firm	Php1,179,237.00

1. The DOH now calls for the submission of eligibility documents. Interested Consulting Firms/Individual Consultants must submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) to apply for eligibility and shortlisting for the above consulting contract on or before **28 August 2012, 10:00 A.M.** at GF Building 4, CObAC Conference Room, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Deadline of submission for eligibility documents shall be on the date of the opening of the Eligibility Documents, **28 August 2012, 10:00 A.M.** at GF Building 4, CObAC Conference Room, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Application for eligibility will be evaluated based on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion.
2. The CObAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted eligibility documents/Expression of Interest and have been determined as eligible in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the IRR of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with Section 23.4.1.3 of R.A. 9184, only duly short listed consultants will be allowed to bid. The contract will be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

   The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the instructions to bidders.
4. The evaluation procedures to be adopted shall be Quality Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE). Bids which fail to attain technical proposal passing the minimum technical rating of 75% shall have its financial proposals opened and evaluated.
5. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the Department of Health at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Consulting Firms/Individual Consultants **should download and order** the REI at the PhilGEPS website, **(www.philgeps.net)** or through its landline at 900-52-51 to 56.

The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject one bid, to annul the bidding process, to reject all bids and shall not award the contract without incurring any liability and makes no assurances that a contract shall be entered into as a result of the bidding if the process and economic conditions have significantly changed so as to render the project no longer economically, financially or technically feasible as determined by the DOH, if the project is no longer necessary as determined by the DOH and other like bonds for the project/products/activity has been withheld or replaced through no fault of the DOH at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

CORAC SECRETARIAT
Department of Health
3rd Floor, Building 4, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. No. 651-7800 Loc. 1625 – 1627, Telefax No. 741-8771
Website: **www.doh.gov.ph**; Email: **cobacsecretariat@yahoo.com.ph**

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **ALBERTO T. SANEZ, MD, MPH, CESO II**
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, CObAC

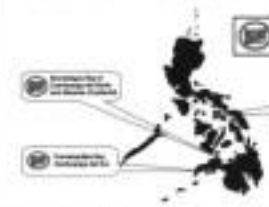
(PNO – August 18, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
PCA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Telefax No. +(63-2)-927-37 • (63-2)-929-82-26

Shellfish Bulletin No. 29
Series of 2012

17 August 2012

Based on the latest laboratory results of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and local government units (LGUs), shellfish harvesting in **Lianga Bay in Surigao del Sur** and **Tubajon in Dinagat Islands** are declared **free** for consumption.



All types of shellfish and marine gp. or swimming gathered from the areas shown above are safe for human consumption. Fish, squids, shrimps and crabs are safe for human consumption gathered from the whole coastal waters of the province.

The following areas continue to be **FREE from toxic red tides** (paralytic shellfish poisoning): all of Cortes, Lal-Loc, Placer, Surigao, Tandag, Bislig, Hinatuan, Lanuza, Barobo, Carrascal, Cantilan, Madrid, Carmen, Cagwait, Tago, Tagbina, Lingig, Marihatag, San Agustin, San Miguel, Bayabas, Tagbina, Lingig, Marihatag, San Agustin, San Miguel, Bayabas, Tandag City, Cortes, Lanuza, Carrascal, Cantilan, Madrid, Carmen, Cagwait, Tago, Barobo, Hinatuan, Lianga, Bislig City

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A tribute to the Father of Philippine Psychiatry Dr. Baltazar V. Reyes during its Building Dedication at The One Algon Place Foundation,Inc. August 4, 2012

Message of Vice President Jejomar C. Binay the Morning and dedication of the Dr. Baltazar V. Reyes building, The One Algon Place Foundation, 4 August 2012

From left to right- Building Dedication of the Dr. Baltazar V. Reyes, Rev. Fr. Soldon Coronado TOAPFI Executive Director Rudie Gonzales IIC TAOFI Medical Director, DOH Undersecretary Ted Herbosa Chairman TOAPFI Radio Gonzaga Gonzales Jr. Honorable Vice President of the Philippine Jejomar Binay, Mrs. Marita V.T. Reyes, Dr. Pia Natalya Reyes, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Dr. Carmelo Danang and TOAPFI President Mrs. Annie Gonzales. Preventive Director Ced Casas-Gonzales and Spiritual Director Rev. Fr. Renato Dela Rosa

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Time Trends

Highlights of the SIHH 2012

THE SALON International de la Haute Horlogerie or SIHH is often referred to also as the Geneva Watch Fair. It showcases the incoming year's new model introductions for several Swiss luxury watch brands particularly those owned by the Richemont Group. The last SIHH had 10 brands featuring all 2012 novelties that will soon be sold in various luxury watch boutiques all over the world. Here are some of the interesting new timepieces we can expect to be showcased very soon:

Breitling for Bentley - The Bentley Boys Ride Again

Breitling for Bentley lives up to an exceptional champion on the starting grid named in honor of the most famous of the Bentley Boys, Barnato, who was also the first driver to win three consecutive editions of the Le Mans 24 hours from 1928 to 1930. For Bentley Barnato racing chronographs are distinguished by their peerless performances and their resolutely out of the ordinary design. They feature ultra-sporty dials, including one with a highly original rolex rajax retrograde option. This understated and powerful crew is topped with a brushed bezel becoming a raised knurled motif inspired by Bentley control buttons. Equipped with transparent sapphire crystal caseback, these top class instruments reveal a truly unique vision through the reverse side, in the shape of an oscillating weight evoking the wheel rims of the new Bentley Continental GT.

The late 1920s was the era of the legendary Bentley Boys - Benjafield, Birkin, Davis, Rubin, Kidston and others of Barnato, the most famous of them all, a multi-millionaire diamond merchant. Gifted sportsmen, authentic amateurs, often fabulously wealthy and irresistible charmers, the Bentley Boys raced fast and foremost for honor, lead by a taste for challenges. Resolutely Bentley in terms of its design, the Bentley Barnato necessities a generously sized case with fixed bezel fastening a knurled mixed metal and red-enamel graduated countam – just like on the dashboards of the finest sports cars from the British carmaker.

IWC's Top Gun Pilot's Watch Collection - A tribute to the supermen of the skies

Three professional Pilot's Watches from IWC Schaffhausen is part of the new 2012 Top Gun collection. And in the vanguard is the new Miramar line – a tribute to the birthplace of the Top Gun legend in California. The pilots who come from the United States Navy Fighter Weapons School in Fallon, Nevada are part of the world's flying elite. Three of the models feature the classical Top Gun design, recognizable from the instrument look of the dial and the attractive mix of materials consisting of ceramic for the case, titanium for the push-buttons and crown, as well as the soft strap material.

The most conspicuous visual features are the shimmering metallic grey of the ceramic case and the rugged grain leather strap. The Big Pilot's Watch (Ref. 501901) combines the chain-cut instrument look of the 1940s with ultra-modern watch technology from the 21st century. Fully wound, the IWC manufactured 51111 calibre movement consisting of 311 components will keep the movement running for 7 days. With the same exacting, millimetre specifications, the Pilot's Watch Chronograph Top Gun Miramar (Ref. 306502) features the new design and a equally "stream-lity". No less impressive is the Big Pilot's Watch Perpetual Calendar Top Gun (Ref. 502902), with a wealth of complex technological features that includes a perpetual calendar with four-digit year display, moon phase display and 7 day power reserve. Working away inside the black ceramic case is one of IWC's largest and most efficient automatic winding movements.

Jaeger-LeCoultre's Duométre à Sphérocubes - Split - Time Timepiece, Two Movements

Michele Lambert, CEO of Jaeger-LeCoultre calls it – The evolution? No, a revolution." In devising its unprecedented Dual-Wing mechanism, the Manufacture Jaeger-LeCoultre not only laid the cornerstone of a new collection 'nomad' Duométre, but also added a whole new chapter to watchmaking history. The Dual-Wing concept affords the possibility of possessing a watch succeeding accuracy with unprecedented horological complexity. Michel Navas, of the Manufacture Jaeger-LeCoultre have developed a solution that at last provides a response to a recurrent problem on complex mechanical watches: any complication naturally eats up some of the energy provide by the barrel. This energy consumption perturbs the constant supply required by the meticulously adjusted regulating organ in order to fulfill its mission with absolute accuracy. The Dual-Wing concept, featuring two separate and independent mechanisms housed within a single case, one of them responsible for powering the time indications, and the other for driving an additional function.

The IWC Pilots Collection for 2012

THE PANERAI Tuttomondo

THE J.L.C Duometre Spherocubiques

The Hublot Ferrari Big Bang

Panerai's Tuttomondo

Sporting a Luminor 1950 case with the classic Panerai brooded in ceramic material, the Tuttomondo is made entirely of matt black ceramic – a watch with an extraordinary aesthetic impact, which is faithful to the Panerai identity and constructed using the most advanced technologies in the field of materials. It has a watchcase with a diameter of 44mm, with the bezel device protecting the winding crown which makes every luminor unmistakable and the dial which is of sandwich construction. The bezel too is made entirely of matt black ceramic, the helo being formed and finished by the same processes as the case and then attached by a PVD-coated brushed steel buckle. The ceramic used by Officine Panerai is a synthetic material based on zirconium oxide powder. By means of a complex series of working and finishing processes this ceramic is particularly uniform and even appearance combined with a high degree of hardness (up to 5 times greater than that of stainless steel), as well as being resistant to scratches, corrosive agents and high temperatures. These characteristics have made ceramic one of the materials of choice in the world of haute horlogerie.

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Mercedes-Benz's E-Class wins third time in a row along with other awards

J.D. Power and Associates, one of the world's leading market research companies recently published its latest survey on driver satisfaction with Mercedes-Benz vehicles emerging as clear winners in their categories to include the A-Class, C-Class and the E-Class. In addition, Mercedes-Benz also took overall first place in the study among all brands. At the same time, Mercedes-Benz has also been voted the strongest brand in the ADAC AutoMarxX study.

With the premise that the owner of a car is best placed to know its strengths and weaknesses, J.D. Power 2012 Vehicle Ownership Satisfaction Study (VOSS) used some 14,399 drivers in Germany who responded to an online survey to assess the quality and reliability of their cars, all of which had been driven for around two years. In addition to rewarding marks for service and ownership costs, drivers also assessed how appealing they considered their cars to be. Based on the responses received, the market researchers drew up comprehensive lists of those vehicles achieving best satisfaction, comprising 79 models from 35 manufacturers in eight categories. In four of these categories, Mercedes-Benz has taken first place in the ranking. "Overall VOSS – Brands", its A-Class model overall top marks for satisfaction in the Compact Class in the Midsize Premium category the C-Class landed first place in the satisfaction assessment and for the third time in succession the E-Class won top rank in customer satisfaction in the Executive Luxury Car category.

According to Dr. Joachim Schmidt, chairman of the Board of Mercedes-Benz Cars responsible for Sales and Marketing, "We are delighted that we have once again been able to secure the top places in the J.D. Power Study 2012. Our aim in the future is to continue to set the highest of standards, not only in terms of quality, service, and ecology, but of course also with our exciting designs, inspirational technology and high levels of driving pleasure. As a result we hope that the Mercedes-Benz brand will continue to be extremely well received by our customers." The J.D. Power Vehicle Ownership Satisfaction Study' undertaken by the global market research company J.D. Power, based in Los Angeles, is seen as an important guide for vehicle buyers.

CATS Motors introduces the all-new M-Class

By jason ang

CATS Motors, Philippine distributor for Mercedes-Benz, has introduced the new ML 250 CDI with a new attractive powertrain: a 2.0-liter diesel engine with 204 bhp and a whopping 500Nm of torque from just 1600 rpm. The new ML's theme is "refinement meets athleticism," as this new model offers fuel efficiency, on average, 23 percent better than the predecessor. The ML features permanent all-wheel drive with reportedly exceptional safety and well-balanced ride comfort. Mercedes also promises excellent driving dynamics both on- and off-road. The engine will be paired with the 7-speed automatic transmission.

Making the ML more of a standout within the AMG styling package, provided as standard, front and rear apron, and side sill panels done in body color; 19-inch 5x60 alloys with 255/50 R 19 tires; and sport brakes with perforated brake discs and painted caliper covers.

Standard features include park assist, ABS brakes, 6+seven headlamps, Bluetooth audio system, auto start-stop engine, ESP stability program, traction control, keyless go, Pre-safe preventive occupant protection system, reverse camera, and climate control. The new ML 350 CDI AMG Sport retails for P6,288,000.

Mobile Luxury

Sixt offers stress-free mobility for VIPs, celebrities and executive travelers

(Sixt, searching for the best car rental company? Traveling executives, diplomats and celebrities or even leisure travelers need not look far. Sixt is a car rental company that has been around for over a century in Germany and other European countries. With its arrival in the Philippines, Manila can now see a different kind of car rental company with its fleet of traditional and highly customized vehicles from executive vans (Chrysler Town & Country, Mercedes Benz Viano) with secret caption seats where one can do their meetings and conferences on the go to luxury SUVs such as Jeep Grand Cherokee & Dodge Durango.

Executives and jetsetters flying in their private jets can benefit from its partnership with Agas Aviation, one of the most reliable fixed-base operators (FBO) at Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Agas Aviation Center Inc., offers personalized service focusing on the needs of passengers and crew members of non-scheduled airliner (passenger and cargo charter), consumer, VIP, military and special rotary/fixed-wing flights in-and-out of the airport. As soon as the plane comes to a complete stop, Sixt will be by the plane, on the grounds waiting to bring its client to the destination ordered.

According to Khamal Travesi, general manager for Sixt Rent a car Philippines – "Our business objective is to provide solutions for short-term luxury requirements of top business corporations and high profile executives, the diplomatic community, and holiday travelers wanting a taste of luxury. We also proposed packages for each market segment even for VIPs and celebrities. Our exclusive "Special Access and Production Pack" packages will take care of all transportation worries of any VIP, foreign celebrities or artists.

Currently, "Sixt Philippines" clientele encompasses the diplomatic communities, foreign artists and executives from private companies. It also offers its vehicles as wedding cars for brides who want to make an impression on their special day, not just for herself but also for the entourage. Pre-wedding celebrations can also be enjoyed in its party limo.

The company plans to expand its clientele, tapping into schools and hotel agencies not only in Manila but also in significant cities and top destinations in the Philippines in the next three years.

One can also benefit from its outbound service where one can book with Sixt Philippines before traveling abroad. Sixt will do all the coordination ensuring a stress-free flight ahead. Everyone can enjoy these services with its very simple ways of booking. Clients can now reserve a car through its online bookings portal http://www.sixt.com.ph/, through hotline +63 2 784 5884 or through the phone where one can download the Sixt application for free. This is available on iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, Android and Windows based mobile phones. Sixt also has mobile phone rentals with local carriers without incurring expensive roaming charges.

The company is also a partner of AMEX, the world's largest card issuer by purchase volume. By booking with Sixt using an American Express card entitles the cardholder to get a 15 percent discount. The company is also working on offering online payment options and channels such as online payment.

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Liquid Gold

Louis XIII hosts exclusive dinner for Ferrari owners

LOUIS XIII Grande Champagne Cognac, one of the most exclusive cognac brands from the House of Remy Martin recently feted Ferrari enthusiasts in an ultra exclusive dinner party co-hosted by Wellington Sheng, chair of Automobile Marque Center, Inc. The very intimate dinner was held at the plush Ferrari Showroom, The Fort, Bonifacio Global City. Louis XIII is widely considered as the "King of Cognacs." Using only grapes from the Grande Champagne territory of Cognac, France, it is typically blended from a special reserve of 1,200 eaux-de-vie, some more than a century old. It is further aged in leaded, oak barrels that are several hundred years old, in its own cellar.

Every drop of Louis XIII is placed in special crystal decanters exclusively hand-crafted in Baccarat. The bottles are sealed with a gold-plated cork-top and a matching crystal stopper specific to each bottle and shaped in the customized presentation box. Within the packaging is an authentication certificate with the bottle's distinct serial number.

Remy Martin has its eyes in the Tête of Cognac, representing almost 300 years of French wine growing and cognac making know-how. It is the favourite in France, the original country of cognac. Only 17 percent of all cognacs come from the heart of the Cognac region, which make it a rare luxury spirit. Its intertwining traditional methods to capture the heart of distillation and ageing, the House of Remy Martin offers an cognac of unique aromatic intensity.

The origin of the word "Chateau-pigeon" to describe cognac was goes back to the earliest times. This term was originally used to characterize the bottle and vintage. Having tenaciously fought to maintain the Company on the controls of Rame. At a later date, this term would be more regularly associated with the region surrounding Rabiac and sells its champagne, but also the region of Cognac and its hills as the South and East.

The most prestigious of these is one stored in the delimited region of Cognac is Grande Champagne. Grande Fine, effect of the perfect balance of influences of wood and sea, with a soil characterized by high limestone content, it symbolizes the epitome of wine growing. This generous soil, obtained from extreme climates, allows the roots of the vine to search deep into the heart of the earth. This milder limestone characters of the soil allows the vine to show all of its richness and finesse.

The Louis XIII experience

The first encounters with Louis XIII is one of sight. By letting the right flow through the crystal, it reveals its mahogany color. Then, the series of smell comes into play. The first note of Louis XIII is round. dry oak, combining floral aromas with spicy fragrances, espresso is a dominant note, highlighting the softness. It is then followed by the fine spices powders punctuated by the scents of Havana. The second nose blends the perfumes of flowers and resins that more precisely. Close the fragrances of jasmine and saffron have taken hold of our nose, we are already in the rich and harmonious world of Louis XIII. We need final sensation being drawn into the nuances of dried fruit and the spicy scent of frankincense. The first drop of Louis XIII will infuse the whole mouth, giving life to subtle sensations of fig and sandalwood. Our "sensing" the subsequent mouthful, intense flavors are revealed as we discover the richness and roundness of the eau-de-vie.

Worth the drive

Places where extra fuel and calorie consumption is worth taking

By Jeanette Tumon

IF YOU are like me, where something I eat seems to have a big impact on my body, you would be more careful with your food intake. Fashion and food are some of my interests which are contradictory due to the fact that some fashion looks need a size 2 frame while being a foodie means eating very awful dishes enough to catapult you to size 12. Therefore, I make sure that what I put in my mouth is good and worth keeping on the hips for a couple of weeks. We have this expression, "Sagaing ang sakayan", which is the lowest grade for meals.

In the last couple of years, the Filipino palette has experienced renaissance. More Filipinos have become sophisticated in taste and cuisines which can be seen in the growth of different restaurants and the culinary schools all over the metro. Being a chef is not a job for you. And with all the different resto-hopping out, there are some worth driving two to three hours for like the following I stumbled before.

NORTH
El Nativo

This laid-back drive to Clark is worth it once you taste the original Pinaroses. The inspiration is Yellow Cab's Dean Diaka, whatever are our alkalis spouse and Angeles on days of their court dates and call it. Since chef Chris Lucker revealed on a Tommy Mapagong interview, that the Pinaroza is a result of him being busy condensing pizza and asked for a snack. El often different versions of this, from vegetarian, salmon, chicken etc. Their other dishes are worth the weight gain as well. I love their tomato soup, pasta Arabiata and Carbonara. The rack of lamb and the Bistecca on bed of roasted vegetables are also winners. Chef Chris recipes opened another mention called Via Kitchen at Pinoy Park, Manila that on a weekday will also probably let you another one hour to an hour and a half from Makati as well. El Nativo dining in Clark will take about an hour and a half to two hours from Makati on a Sunday. (1230 Don Jesus Avenue, (045) 892-4059)

Dale Dulong

Claude Tayag and Anthony Bourdain's foodie guide to Pampanga, this humble restaurant/pottery/ chef offers one of the best dining experience in the country. Dale Dulong (House of Wood) is like dining in your friend's ancestral house on a weekend. You can either come as one group on a special day or check their scheduled weekend offering, with three types of prix fixe. Anthony Bourdain's, (a)Chon 5 was at the Kapampangan Menu. Dale Dulong combines authentic with their grand twist, a fusion of international and kapampangan cuisine in unique presentations. Dining here will take most of the day, including the two to two and a half hours to and from Makati on a Sunday. (Villa Gloria Subdivision, Angeles, Pampanga, (0917) 5259109)

SOUTH
Antonio's Grill

A favorite car club drive destination is the canteen Made Guadarrama 20 km restaurant in Alabang Viejo. Hosted by husband and wife tandem, Tony Boy and Agnes Escalante, the cafe is the human while the husband is the one that cooks. But together they make the best tasting food with the best ingredients. They have three different cuisines, Antonio's Grill for traditional Filipino food (must try: Chicken Inasal, Bulalo and Sizzling Tuna). Breakfast, which is basically the chef's favorite type of food (must try: Corned beef and eggs) and Italian cuisine (order with moderation). Antonio's, the fine dining restaurant, the perfect background to a romantic evening or special family occasion. Try the Roasted Bone Marrow or risotto with onion marmalade (very addictive) it is all worth it, and the Steak Tartare. For main course, their ribeye steaks and fish are heavenly. If you can't make up your mind, order the trio or combination platter. If you are a big group and willing to ask the price, go for the three-tiered bowl with truffle mash potato. A trip to Antonio's will take two to two and a half hours from Makati on a Sunday, but be prepared to stay longer to enjoy chef Tony Boy's self designed food trips! (www.antoniosrestaurant.ph)

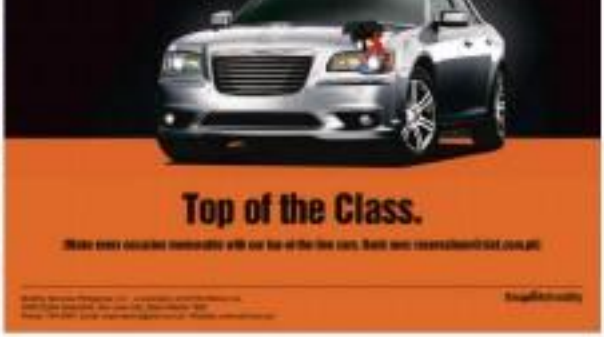
Vellanos

Housed at the Discovery Country Suites Tagaytay, Vellanos offers comfort food. Executive chef David Pardo de Ayala offers a delightful take their endless choosing bowl, so I usually opt for the executive both for the breakfast and entrees). If you much choose for breakfast go for either the Huevos Rancheros or the Barbacoa corned beef. For whole day dining, try the US Angus short ribs Deviado. Also worth the double order is the cheese tomales with their self-selected dipping. Reservations will take you an hour and a half to two hours from Makati on a Sunday. (www.discoverycountrysuites.com)

Rose and Grace

Our trip to our farm is the south will never be complete without having to pass be the original Rose and Grace in San Pablo, Batangas. Although now with the new highways, going to Rose and Grace is somewhat harder. However, their Bulalo and other simple, cheap and yummy offering is enough to make you consume another P500 worth of fuel. A good place to find lowly, both food or passage is beans, the adobo indulging before Atwell or Fried Pita is also a good accompaniment with the smoldering hot Bulalo soup, be prepared to get your hands dirty while getting the yummy bone marrow to be mixed with hot rice, calamansi and patis. Don't forget to drink you shakalakal merienda right after. Rose and Grace will take you two to two and a half hours from Makati on a Sunday, another favorite is Sta Rosa Laguna, just before Nuvali will take you one hour to an hour and a half from Makati.

For comments and suggestions please email me at jet@mozzarella.com



HEAT THERAPY JUST GOT COOLER

DETOX, improve metabolism, be healthy and lighten one's mood. Sounds like a trip down to the local spa. Now, one can get all these and more by investing in a Royal infrared sauna. Studies have shown that energy from the sun's rays are vital to the human body. However, exposing the body of sunlight exposure contributes to fatigue, depression, heat loss, skin damage and other possible health problems. Fortunately, one of the leading retailers of bathware products recently introduced Royal Infrared Saunas manufactured by Royal Saunas Inc., which supplies leading saunas brands like Canexeo of California and Polaraith of Canada.

An infrared (IR) sauna uses infrared light, felt as heat similar to the warm and soothing effects of the sun that penetrates deep into the skin, below the surface. This promotes blood circulation, removes toxins and mineral waste, reduces stress and fatigue, eases joint pains and stiffness, relieves muscle pains, improves skin and enhances overall immune system, boosts energy and opens nasal passages and sinus viruses to drain.

Unlike other type saunas, IR sauna users experience better ease in breathing and well being. The lower heat range allows better use for people with cardiovascular risk factors that might be affected by higher temperature encountered in other type saunas. With its belly-style heating equipment inside the sauna cubicle to concentrate movement, IR saunas offer more capacity for the same size. Interested clients can go to three CW Home Depot branches located in Ortigas, Westgate, Alabang and San Fernando, Pampanga.

RED TAG SALE FROM HOME DEPOT FOR AUGUST

Building your dream home seems impossible when your expectations are high. A lot of people rely on professionals like architects, interior designers and contractors to help them turn blueprint into a reality. Others are more hands-on about every detail needed for their so-called sanctuary, from the shade of light fixtures, the texture of their walls and floors, the composition of their bathroom to the layer of paint used. The enthusiasm of spending so much time canvassing and looking for all the things required for a dream home is now a thing in the cool because of CW Home Depot's offerings. Homeowners and professional builders trust CW Home Depot's store-within-store haven that carries a complete line of building, finishing and furnishing materials all under one roof.

CW Home Depot Mabo points a pioneering a department store-like retail platform among hardware and depot centers in the country. The depot's strategic positions of two subdivisions is often praised for its unique area layout. The Home Builder Superstore, The Home Interior Superstore, The Home Appliance Superstore and its specialty store, The Red Tag Sale ends in August 30, 2012.

Double zero interest payment thru its own Visa credit card

Contractors, architects and home improvement enthusiasts can now avail either one CW Home Depot Visa Credit Card. Powered by Union Bank, CW Home Depot Visa cardholders can enjoy a zero-month 0% interest up to 12 months installment. That's not all, every cardholder will only start to pay the their first monthly amortization 3 months after! Yes, each cardholder has a choice from 3 to 12 months zero percent interest on the purchase and zero payment on the first 3 months – a double zero treat! This promoted scheme will be the first of its kind for a credit card in the country.

On specified promo periods, the three months Buy Now Pay Later deal will also be offered on straight charge transactions. This payment scheme will definitely provide a stretch and flexibility to homeowners, contractors and architects.

Aside from this, other card features include: regular zero interest between 3 to 6 months, the Home Builder's Superstore items like doors, hardware, bathroom fixtures and as much as 24 months for Home Interior Superstore items like furniture and interior décor products or installment terms, a 500 peso CW Home Depot shopping voucher after paying the first annual fee and 1 Load rewards point for every 50 pesos spent on the card anywhere since cardholders can redeem for CW Home Depot Gift Certificates, gas, dining and shopping vouchers. This is on top of the points one earns if the cardholder is a member of CW Home Depot Loyalty Rewards Program too.

And because it's a UnionBank credit card, cardholders enjoy other features such as an auto-charge facility, auto-insurance installment plan, discounts and freebies, on-the-go-customer service with a 24-hr hotline, mobile and internet access to accounts, dividends and rewards updates, unlimited number of supplementary cards, numerous payment channels and flexible payment scheme. For more information about the CW Home Depot UnionBank Visa Card, call 841 8000.